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- KILL THE GRAND POOHBAH!
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HELP MR. SNAKE GET RID OF ALL THE TOXINS IN HIS FOOD!

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UNLOCK THE HIDDEN BOSSES: TYPO and GRAMMAR ERROR!!!

RESIDENT ILOG 4

CODE: ESCLABO

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SO SCARY YOU'LL KICK THE BUCKET!!!

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GET THE NUKES AND BLOW AWAY ALL YOUR OPPONENTS!!!

TAKA SOUTH PARK RALLY

Solstice Butterfly

IS DISTRIBUTION IS NEAR!!!

COMMAND UP TO 300,000 AT-01'S IN THIS EXCITING STRATEGY GAME FROM POLYGON SOFT USA!

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FELINE FANTASY VIII

IN THIS INCARNATION OF THE GAME, WILL BUTLER'S FANTASY FINALLY COME TRUE?

ISSN 0115-5938

MANGA • ANIME • MUSIC • FAN ART • ANIME EXPO SPECIAL • YUU WATASE

P75 ISSUE 4 VOLUME 1 DEC - JAN

CULTURE CRASH™

Cat's Trail

Episode 4: Ang Halimaw Na Tagapagligtas

HOLIDAY BLOWOUT ISSUE!!! 4

All Saints

BONUS 8-PAGE COMIC SPECIAL!!!

JIJO ON HOW WE DRAW 3 Tools of the Trade

ANIME EXPLOSION 2000

CCCOM COVERS LAST YEAR'S BIGGEST ANIME EVENT!!!

PLUS!

FAN MANGA, CAT'S TRAIL AND PASIG PULL-OUT POSTERS!

Solstice Butterfly

One Day Isang Diwa

PASIG

Holiday Greetings, Pricing and Apologies (Again!)

By December 23rd, we still looked like this guy - alone and lonely...

STAFF:
Jescie James L. Palabay
Jerard Dominic Irving F. Beltran
Elmer A. Damaso
Taga-ilog (alias) Taga-ilog

CONTRIBUTORS:
nemo
Leda Esguerra
A. J. Esguerra
Bernie Sim

Filmed in Marikina by PANDA-VISION. No animals were hurt during the process of this comic book publication. Special thanks to the Canadian Embassy for lending us make-up for Jio. Void where prohibited. All questionable materials provided by S&M Productions Limited. All rights R.S.V.P. 2001

Special thanks go to Bad Badtz Maru for posing for us and keeping us company during our long, lonely nights. Memer II, umuwi ka na!!! Bumili na 'ko ng hairgel mo! Ano ba gusto mo? Spray Net?

Notice anything with the Culture Crash copy you're holding? Yup, it's gotten thicker! What's that? Oh yeah, we're late, umm... that too!

We are late because we had to reformat everything for the new pages. I was also recently confined in the hospital for the first time in a decade or so. Nothing serious though, just too much stress I guess. Anyway, we used to be ahead by about two to three issues. Now it's neck and neck. So forgive us again if we're back to square one in normalizing our production schedule.

As you well know, we are running Culture Crash without ads. The explanation for this is that we are a new concept and we are meeting heavy resistance from the industry. Despite the amazing response that we have had from you, our dear readers, none of those in the position to help us has really considered Culture Crash a viable venture. In fact, they're not even sure if we have a market! So maybe you are all a figment of our collective imagination? Yeah, right.

Eighty-five pesos...That's the new price we're looking at. Downgraded paper (still white and of good quality) with some glossy pages, 48 pages for the comic, 16 pages for the other stuff. So there you go, the real reason for the price increase: we are expanding! I mean c'mon, doesn't it feel a whole lot thicker now? We also can no longer deny the effect of the peso's depreciation especially since most of the materials that we use are imported.

But if you noticed, we have not yet raised the cost for this issue. As an apology for the delay and in light of the recent holiday festivities we will not be raising the price until the fifth issue. Just think of it as a gift from us, to you! I don't think we can afford this, but we owe you people so the heck with profit margins! Believe us, we are not making millions here.

I started Culture Crash because I wanted to change the conventions of our industry. I found people who shared the same sentiments and we rolled the dice. It takes a lot to change a person, what more for an entire industry? It is very hard, yes. But as long as we have readers like you, and as long as we continue to grow, I believe our collective voices will someday swell into a resounding, undeniable voice that will resonate within the walls of our conventional bounderies and make the ears of our industry ring for some time to come.

Sometimes, change is good...

Jescie James L.Palabay
CCCom Editor

E-MAIL: cc_kom@hotmail.com

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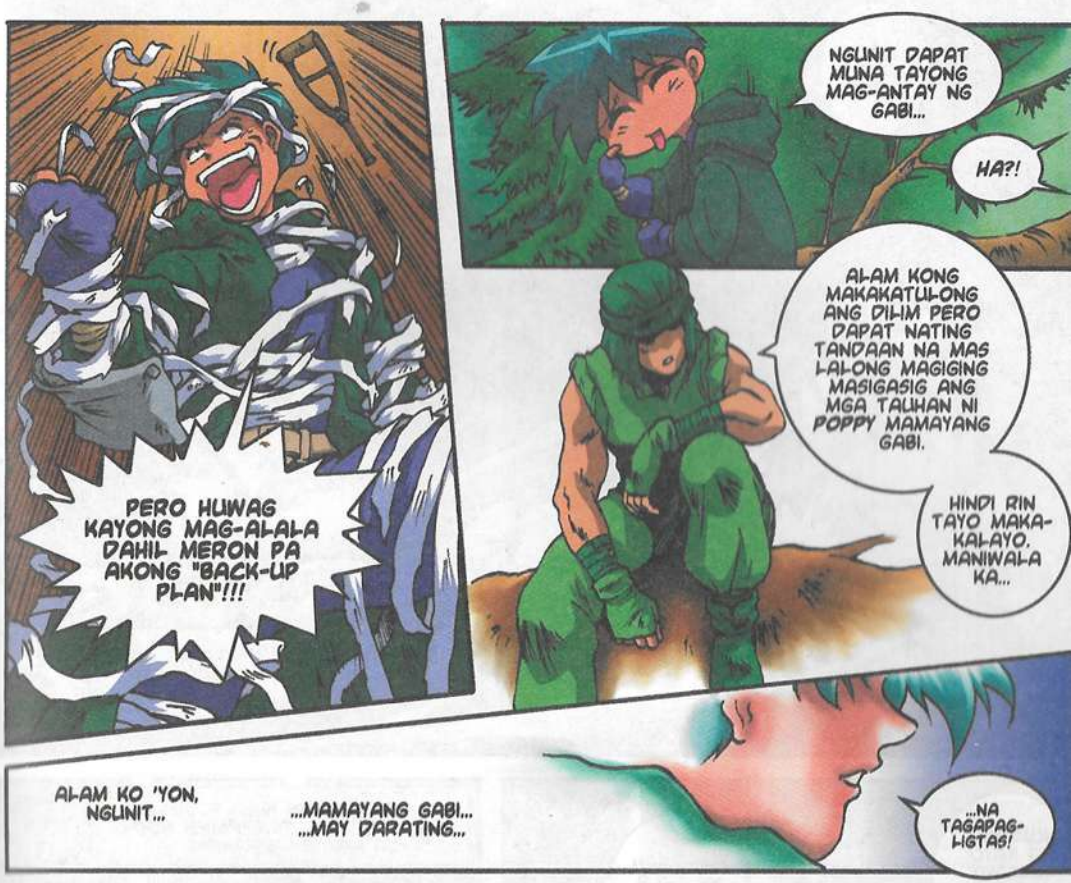
OH MY GOD!!! SOMEBODY KILLED IQ40!!!

BAGO TAYO TULUYANG MAPALAYO NG KUWENTO...
"HULING NAKITA ANG ATING MGA BIDA NA TUMAKAS MULA SA KULUNGAN SA FEATHERWOODS..."
"DAHIL SA TULONG NI BUTLER MABILIS SILANG NAKAAKYAT SA ISANG PUNO UPANG MAGKUBLI NANG PANSAMANTALA..."
BAKIT BA LAGI NIYA 'KONG MINAMALIIT?...
"NGUNIT SA KASAMAANG PALAD, BAGO PA MAN DIN SILA MAKALAYO AY NAGLAHO NA ANG MAHIKANG ILUSYON NI BUTLER..."
AY MATSING!!!
...CUTE NAMAN AKO A!
"NAGALIT SI SHERIFF POPPY AT PINAKALAT NIYA ANG KANYANG MGA TAUHAN UPANG HALUGHUGIN ANG BUONG LUGAR..."
SIGE, KUNG 'DI NA LANG ANG MAGTRABAHO.
KAKAIN NA LANG AKO.
...KAYA HANGGANG NGAYON AY IPIT PA RIN SA KINALALAGYAN SILA AIREE, POLARIS AT BUTLER.
HOY! PAHINGI NAMAN 'NUNG KINAKAIN MO!
'YOKO NGA! MATAPOS MO 'KONG INSULTUHIN... MAGLUTO KA KAYA.
HINDI AKO MARUNONG.
PWES, SORRY KA NA LANG.
SAMANTALA...
HAAAAY, NAKU! BAKIT BA GANITO TAYO KAMALAS NGAYON?
NAKALABAS NGA NG KULUNGAN HINDI NAMAN TAYO MAKALAYO. PARANG BIHAG PA RIN...
WALA PANG YOSI! $#@%!
HMMMM...
GRABE PA RIN ANG SITWASYON SA 'BABA. HINDI TAYO MAKAKAKILOS SA NGAYON...
AH!...

GRABE!!! NAPAGOD AKO SA PAG-AKYAT NATIN DITO A!!!
"O HINDEEE!!!"
"BAKIT?... BAKIT?!..."
"BAKIT MO 'KO PINAPA-HIRAPAN NG GANITO?"
"A-HA-HAH-HAHHHHH!!!"
"ANG SEKSI NIYAAHHH!!! YEHEHEH-HEHEHEHH!"
ARAY.
SPAK!
MANYAKIS KA TALAGA 'NO?!!!
GRRRRR...
INGDEH NGO NAMAN NGINANGADYA EH! INGAW 'YUNG NAG-PAPANGPAG NG SANGDO ...
GUMAWA KA KAYA ULI NG ILUSYON?
TULAD 'NUNG KANINA...
E-HEH-HEH... HINDI KASI AKO TUNAY NA SALAMANGKERO E! HINDI KO NA 'TO KAYANG GAWIN PA MULI.
WALA NA 'KONG ISPIRITUAL AT MENTAL NA LAKAS...
PATAY!
BOOM! TOK! WA-KOOM!
NAKAKAINIS KA! PATI SI POLARIS PINA-PALUNGKOT MO!
HUHUHU...

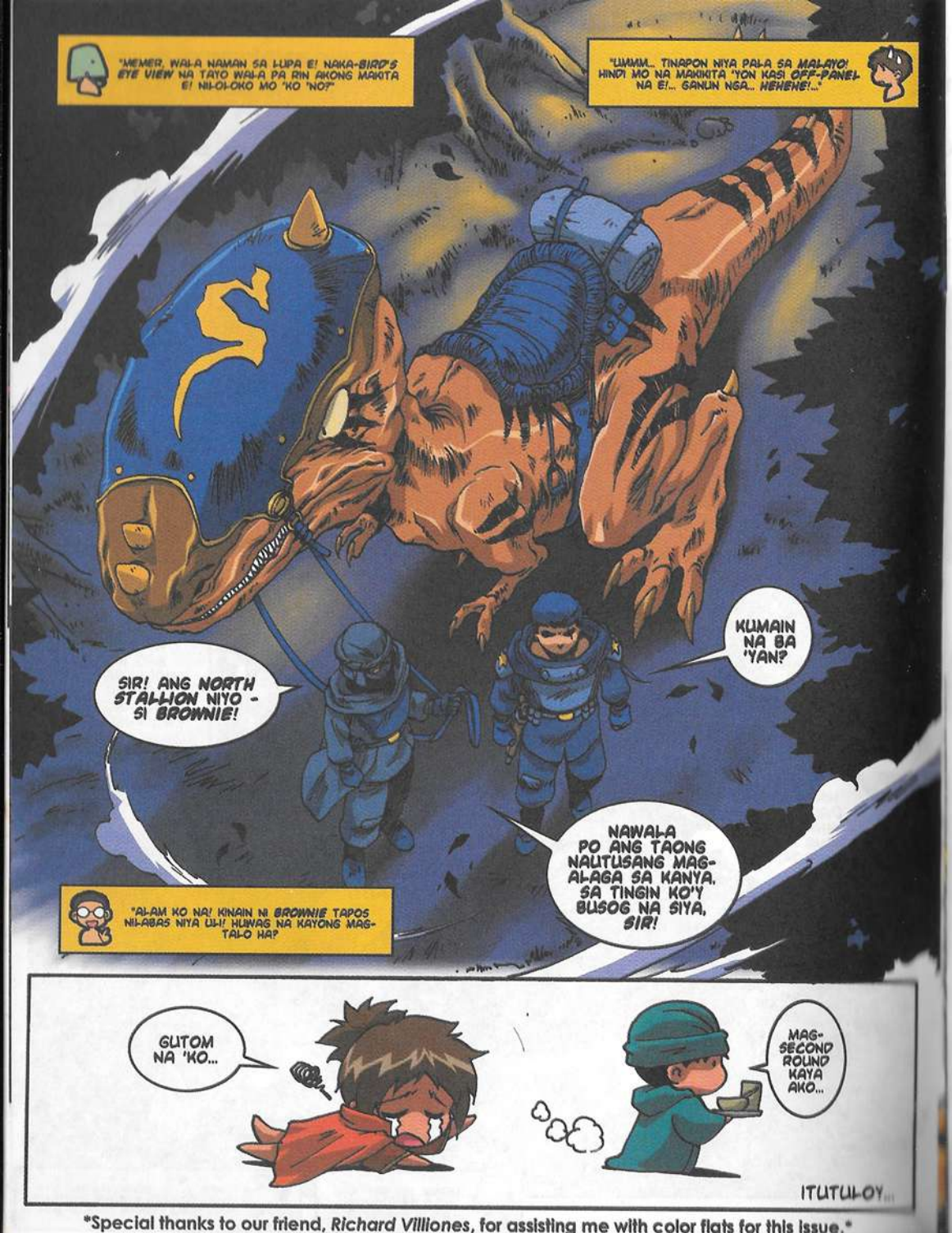

PERO HUWAG KAYONG MAG-ALALA DAHIL MERON PA AKONG "BACK-UP PLAN"!!!
NGUNIT DAPAT MUNA TAYONG MAG-ANTAY NG GABI...
HA?!
ALAM KONG MAKAKATULONG ANG DILIM PERO DAPAT NATING TANDAAN NA MAS LALONG MAGIGING MASIGASIG ANG MGA TAUHAN NI POPPY MAMAYANG GABI.
HINDI RIN TAYO MAKA-KALAYO. MANIWALA KA...
ALAM KO 'YON, NGUNIT...
...MAMAYANG GABI... ...MAY DARATING...
...NA TAGAPAG-LIGTAS!

SIR! NAHALUGHOG NA PO NAMIN ANG BUONG FEATHER-WOODS. WALA PO KAMING NAKITA.
BWISET!!! ITULOY ANG PAGPA-PATROLYA ...
...WALANG MAGPAPAHINGA, AT MAGHANDA NG MGA SULO PARA SA MAMAYANG GABI.

HA?! ANO 'YON?
'YAN ANG RAGNAROK - ANG MAGIGING PARAAN NATIN PARA MAKATAKAS.
NGAA!!! ANG LAKING IBON!!!
WHOOOOOOSSHH
TATAKAS TAYO SA PAMAMAGITAN NG HALIMAW NA 'YAN?!
ANG RAGNAROK AY TINUTURING NA TAGAPAGBANTAY NG GUBAT NA ITO. SINASAMBA SIYA NG MGA TAGA-FEATHERWOODS. HINDI NILA TAYO GAGALAWIN KAPAG DIYAN TAYO SUMAKAY...
HUMANDA NA KAYO! KUMAPIT KAYO NANG MABUTI SA TALI!
NASIRAAN NA YATA SIYA NG BAIT...
MAY SIRA NGA 'TONG BATANG 'TO. PARANG 'DI TAKOT MAMATAY.
"KUNG TUTUUSIN HINDI POSIBLENG MAGAMIT ANG GRAPPLING HOOK SA LAKAS NG HANGIN..."
FWOOOP
THUNK
WHIP
WHIP
"PERO ANG KAILANGAN LANG DITO AY ANG TAMANG TIYEMPO!"
SAMANTALA, SA IBABA...
BA'T NAGYU-YUKUAN ANG MGA TAO?!
SIR, 'YAN DAW PO ANG RAGNAROK. ANG TAGA-PAGBANTAY NG KANILANG GUBAT!
RAGNAROK?!
E-HEH-HEHE-HEHE!!! NAGAWA KO! NAGAWA KO SIYA!!! HE-HE....
...MAKAKALAYO NA KAMI -- SA WAKAS!
AIREE, ... MAHAL KO...

SHRRRIIP!
ANG BAG KO!!!
ANO 'YUN?
KALIMUTAN MO NA 'YAN AT UMAKYAT KA NA!
RAGNAROK?...
SIR! ILAG!
?!
AKO'NG BAHALA SA INYO, SIR!!!

SKKKSSSHH
AYOS LANG BA KAYO, SIR?
ULK!
HINDE.
"BAG?! ... "
"WALANG BAG NA NALALAG-LAG NA LAMANG SA LANGIT..".
HINDI NAG-DADALA NG KNAPSACK ANG ISANG IBON...
HABULIN ANG RAG-NAROK! MADALI!!!
SER.. SER... MASA-KIT ...
POLICE
"MEMER, NASAAN 'YUNG SULO NA HAWAK NI SHERIFF POPPY?"
"HA?! A... E... INILAPAG LANG NIY DIYAN SA LUPA HABANG SINASAD NIYA 'YUNG BOBONG ALAGAD NIY



*Special thanks to our friend, *Richard Villiones*, for assisting me with color flats for this issue.*

PASIG

KA-APAT NA KABANATA: MERSENARYONG BAKAL

Story & Art by: Taga-Ilog

W-WALA...
WALA AKONG GINAWA!
alam ko.
MINA! SA LIKOD MO!!!
mahina kang talaga, mina... nababakas pa ang pag-aalinlangan sa iyong mukha ... ano na ang nangyari sa pagsasanay sa bataan?
wala na nga bang talaga?
anong klaseng manunubos ang naglalabas ng luha para sa kanyang tinutugis?

tila nasayang ang mga tinuro ko sa 'yo...
K-CHK

kung hindi mo kayang gampanan ang iyong tungkulin bilang isang manunubos, ako na lang ang tatapos sa 'esclabong 'yan...
HEH HEH HEH
BOUNTY HUNTER

KUYA DANTE!!!
TRISHA! LUMAYO NA KAYO NG KAPATID MO DITO...

CHAREN...

MANUNUBOS AKO... HINDI ISANG MERSENARYO.
...AT HANGGA'T HINDI KO NALALAMAN ANG NAGING KASALANAN NG TAONG ITO,
HINDI KO IGAGAWAD ANG NARARAPAT NA HUSTISYA!
BOUNTY
HUNTER

BKAM
bah! prinsipyo! sinasabi ko na nga ba! ito lang ang nalalaman kong hustisya!!!

tp

MABAGAL.
PTING

a-anong?!!
FWAP!
ITIGIL MO 'YAN, CHAREN!!!

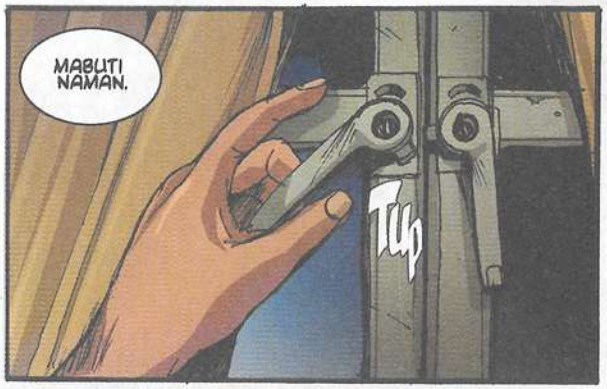
UMALIS KA NA, CHAREN.
BOUNTY
may pag-asa pa pala sa iyo, mina.
SHIING
sana nga lang hindi ka na lang kumampi sa isang esclabo.
BKAM

A-ANONG?!
S-SALAMAT...
STOP
BOUNTY
heh- hindi ka pa rin nagbabago, dante,... mahusay ka pa rin sa baril.
ano pa ang hinihintay mo?! tapusin mo na ako!
KZAATTT
CHAREN, SABIHIN MO SA AMO MO NA KUNG MAY KAILANGAN SIYA SA AKIN, LUMAPIT NA LANG SIYA NG PERSONAL... MALIWANAG?!

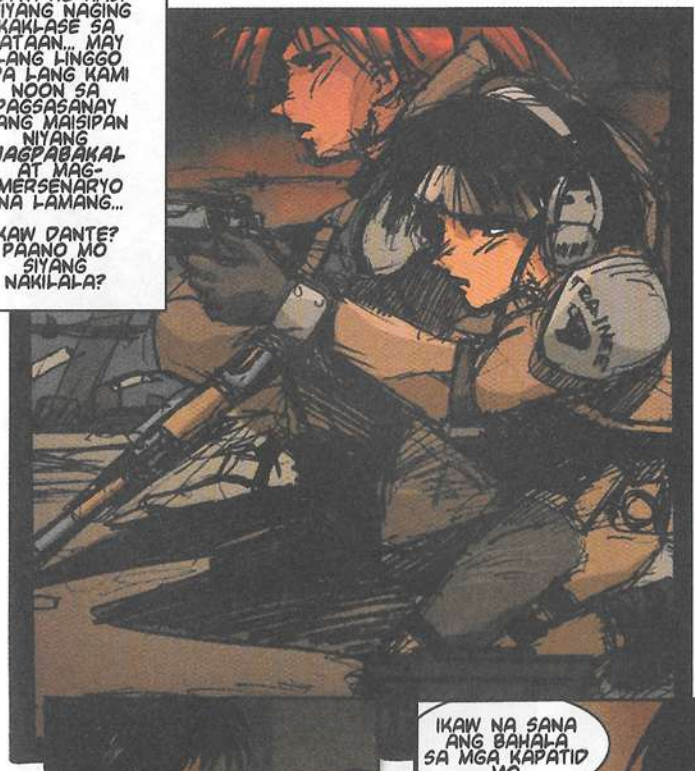
SHKFF
babalikan kita, dante..
tandaan mo 'yan!

MAKAKALABAN DIN BA KITA, MINA?
...

NAPAMAHAL KA NA SA MGA KAPATID KO, DANTE.
HINDI KO MATITIIS NA MAKITA SILANG MALUNGKOT MULI NANG DAHIL SA AKIN...


MABUTI NAMAN.
TUP

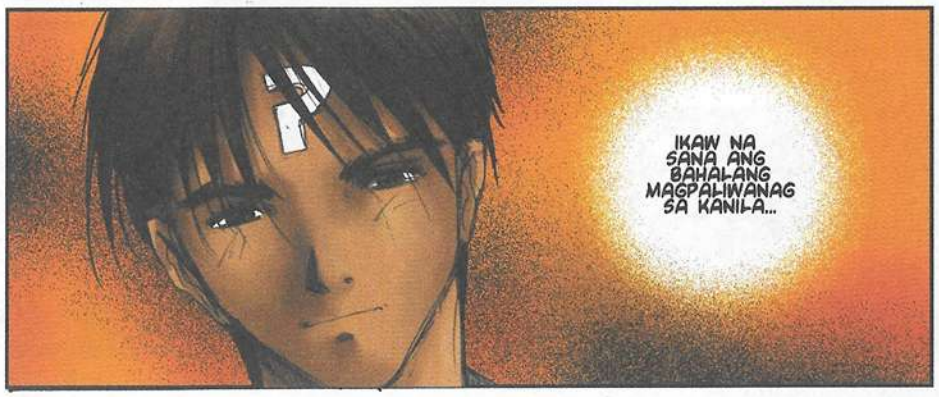
MINA, PAANO MONG NAKILALA SI CHAREN?
WANTED


DATI KO KASI SIYANG NAGING KAKLASE SA BATAAN... MAY ILANG LINGGO PA LANG KAMI NOON SA PAGSASANAY NANG MAISIPAN NIYANG MAGPABAKAL AT MAG-MERSENARYO NA LAMANG...
IKAW DANTE? PAANO MO SIYANG NAKILALA?

MAHABANG ISTORYA...
ISANG NAKARAANG NAIS KO NANG MALIMUTAN...

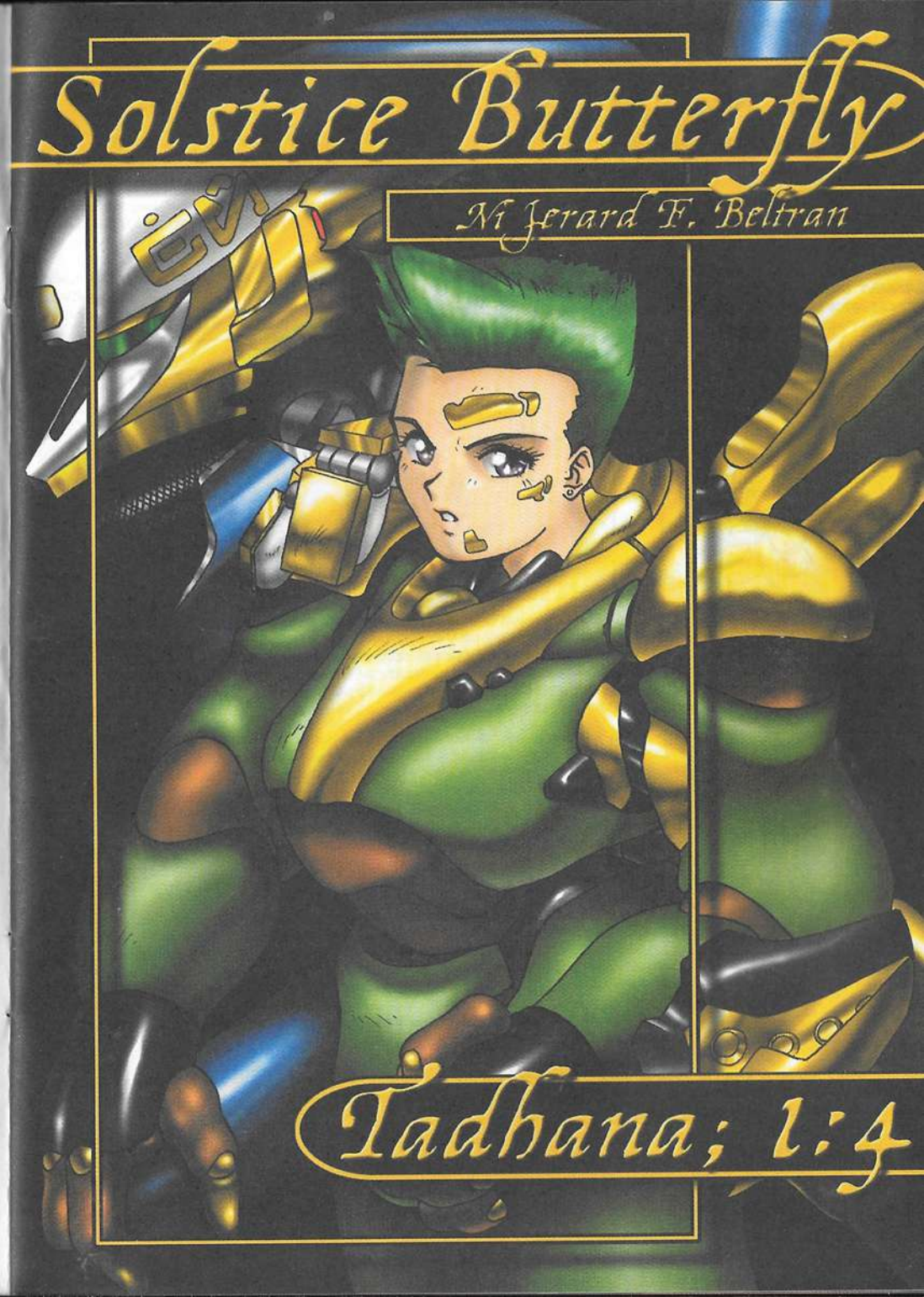
MINA, MAY IPAGBIBILIN SANA AKO SA 'YO...

IKAW NA SANA ANG BAHALA SA MGA KAPATID MO...
MAGIGING MAPANGANIB NA SA INYO KUNG MANANATILI PA AKO DITO. BUKAS NA BUKAS DIN AY AALIS NA AKO.
PERO...


IKAW NA SANA ANG BAHALANG MAGPALIWANAG SA KANILA...

Solstice Butterfly

Ni Jerard F. Beltran



Tadhana; 1:4

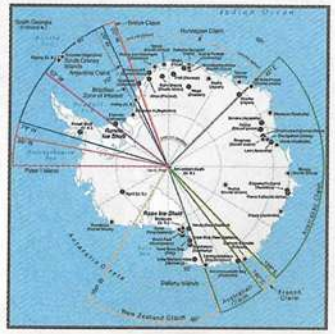
Historical Supplement

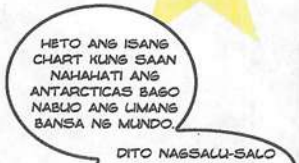
Antarcticas: Ang Bansang Hindi.

ANG ANTARCTICAS NA ANG TINAGURIANG PINAKAMARAHAS NA BAHAGI NG MUNDO. MALUBHA ANG KLIMA AT MALIMIT ANG PAGKAKAROON NG NILALANG, ANG ANTARCTICAS AY MISTULANG DISYERTO NG NIYEBE. ILAN LAMANG ITO SA MGA DAHILAN KUNG BAKIT SIYA NAGING ***TESTING GROUND*** NG MUNDO.

NAGMULA ANG ANTARCTICAN ACLONY SA MGA ***RESEARCH LABS*** NG MGA BANSANG ***UNIS AMERIKAS (UA)***, ***RESENT ORIENTS (RO)***, AT ***EUROPEAN UNION (EU)***. SA LUPAING ITO NAGMULA ANG MGA ***PROTOTYPE*** NG ***ARMORED TECH, PROTO SOLS*** AT IBA PANG MGA ***MECHA*** NA GINAGAMIT NG GAIA-UNIS SA PAKIKIDIGMA AT SA PAGLIKHA NG MGA IMPRASTRAKTURA.

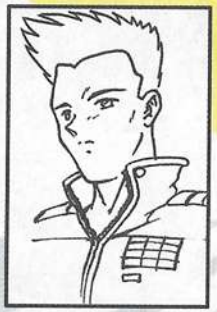
PROTO-SOLS STAGE ZERO





ARMATURE TECH ZERO-ZERO

NAKAMIT NG ANTARCTICAS ANG KANILANG KASARINLAN NANG BINIGYAN SILA NG ***GAIA-UNIS*** NG SARILI NILANG KONSTITUSYON. NAPILITAN SILANG MAGING ISANG NASYON UPANG MAGKAROON NG ***NEUTRAL GROUND*** ANG MGA NAUNANG MIYEMBRO NG GAIA-UNIS. GINAWA ANG ***SOUTHERN CROSS CONVENTION*** UPANG MAGING PATAKARAN NG MGA GAIA-UNIS NATIONS. SA ANTARCTICAS DIN NAGANAP ANG ***UNIFICATION*** NG GAIA-UNIS AT NG ***MARTIAN COLONIES*** NA SIYANG NAGING PANIMULAIN NG ***INNER RING FEDERATION***. KAHIT MAYROON SILANG SARILING PINUNO, MGA BATAS, AT KONSTITUSYON, HINDI PA RIN SILA GANAP NA NASYON. KONTROLADO PA RIN SILA NG MGA NASYONG ***EU, RO,*** AT ***UA***.

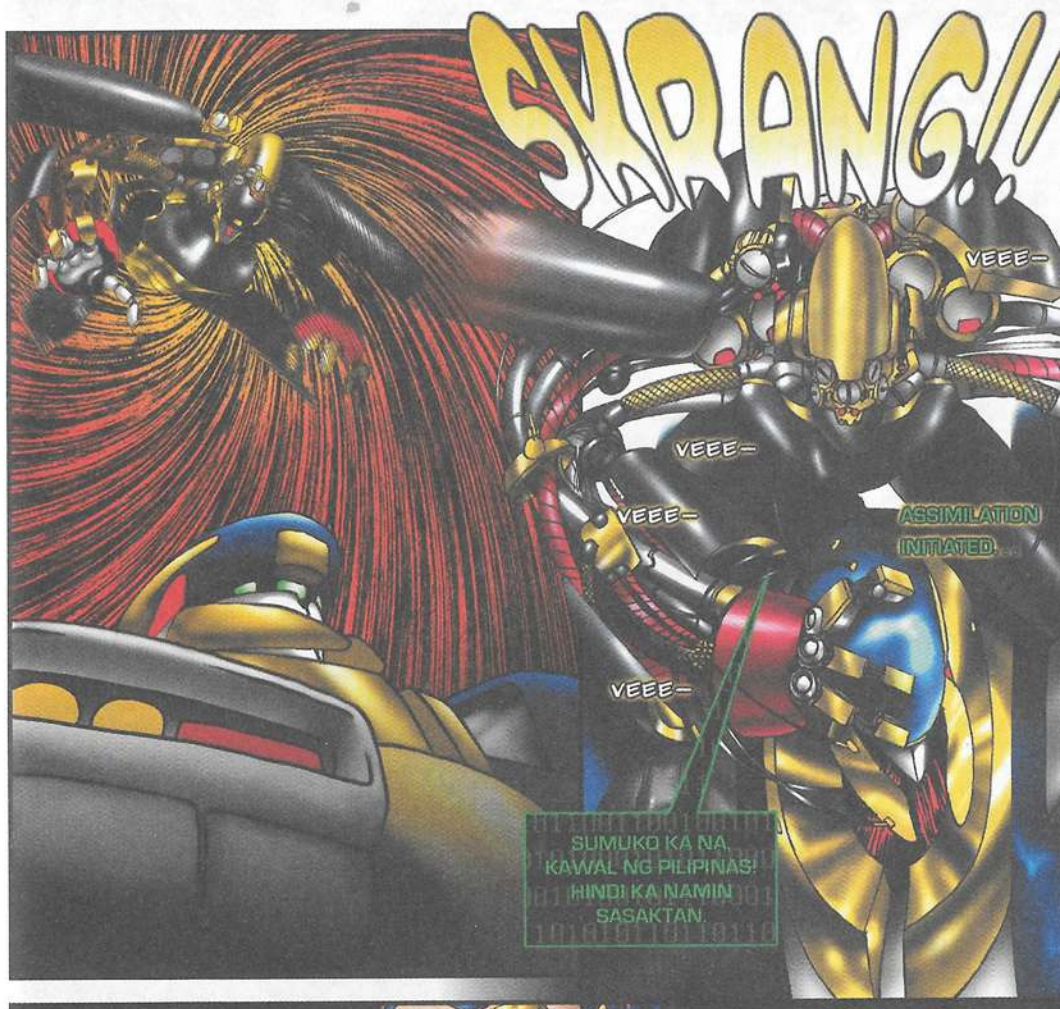


SI MAJ. JONATHAN MAHABHARATI ANG NAGHATID SA ORIENTAL NEGOTIATION PANEL. NAKALISTAS SIYA DAHIL NASA TRANSPORT CARRIER SIYA NUNG SUMABOG ANG DATING U.N. BUILDING NA GINAGANAPAN NG PULONG.

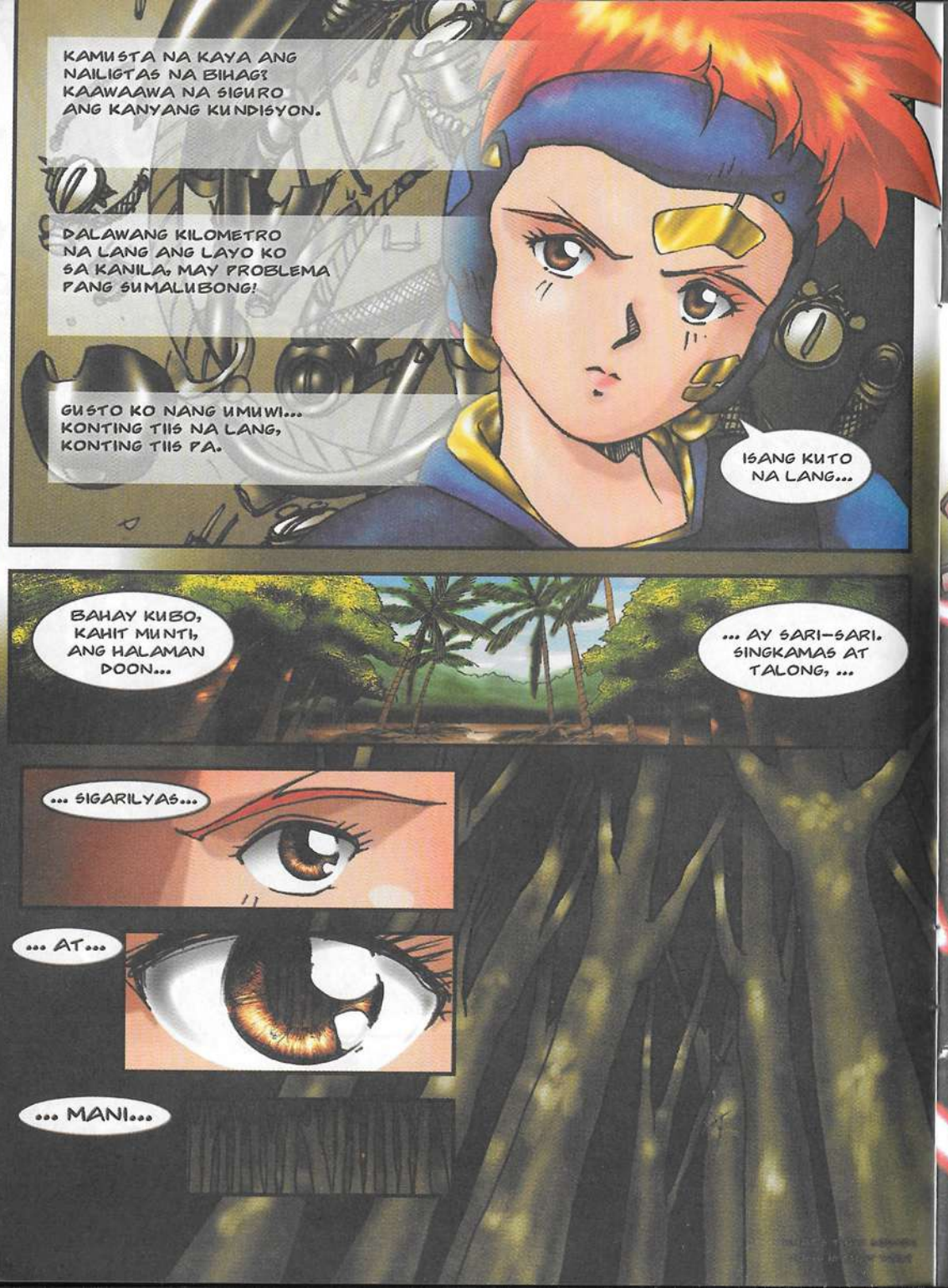
SA KAGUSTUHAN NG ANTARCTICANS MAGKAROON NG TUNAY NA KALAYAAN, UHIM SILANG GUMAWA NG MAKABAGONG ARMAS NA HANGO SA MGA TEKNOLOHIYA NG TATLONG BANSA: ANG ***EMP RIFLE*** AT ANG ***EMP BOMB***, NA SINLAKI LAMANG NG ISANG TENNIS BALL. ANG ***EMP BOMB*** AY MAS MATINDI KAYSA SA MGA IBANG ***EMP (ELECTRO MAGNETIC PULSE)*** TECHNOLOGY DAHIL SA KAYA NITONG PAHINTUIN ANG DALOY NG KURYENTE AT SIRAIN ANG KAHIT NA ANONG ***ELECTRICAL DEVICE***. ANG SAKOP NG PAGSABOG NITO AY SINLAWAK NG BANSANG KOREA. SA KABILA NG LAHAT NANG ITO, NINALIIT PA RIN SILA NG MGA NASYON.

NAGULANTANG ANG LAHAT NANG BIGLANG BUMAGSAK AT NAWATAK ANG ***EU*** SA LOOB NG ISANG ARAW DAHIL SA MARAMIHANG PAGSABOG NG ***EMP BOMBS***. SUMUNOD DITO ANG ASASINASYON NG HARING PINUNO NG ***UNITED AAFRO-ARABIAS (UAA)*** AT ANG PAGSABOG NG ***EMP BOMB*** SA CALIFORNIA. MABILIS NA NAPAGALAMAN NG AMERIKAS NA ANG LAHAT NG MGA KAGANAPANG ITOY KAGAGAWAN NG ANTARCTICAS KUNG KAYA'T AGAD NILANG GINAMIT ANG ***SATELLITE OPERATED LASER (SOL)*** UPANG TULUYANG MATIGIL ANG PAGSALAKAY NG ANTARCTICAS AT PARA WALA NANG MAKIKINABANG SA TEKNOLOHIYA NITO.

AGAD NAGKITA ANG DALAWANG GRUPO MULA SA ***UA*** AT ***RO*** UPANG IBALIK ANG KAAYUSAN SA MUNDO, NGUNIT WALA SA KANILANG BUMALIK NA BUHAY. DITO NAGMULA ANG PAGSISISI SA ISA'T-ISA NG MGA BANSANG ORIENTS AT AMERIKAS NA NAUWI SA ***BAGONG DIGMAAN***.



* Chinese: Hello, How are you - JLP


KAMUSTA NA KAYA ANG NAILIGTAS NA BIHAG? KAAWAAWA NA SIGURO ANG KANYANG KUNDISYON.
DALAWANG KILOMETRO NA LANG ANG LAYO KO SA KANILA, MAY PROBLEMA PANG SUMALUBONG!
GUSTO KO NANG UMUWI... KONTING TIIS NA LANG, KONTING TIIS PA.
ISANG KUTO NA LANG...
BAHAY KUBO, KAHIT MUNTI, ANG HALAMAN DOON...
... AY SARI-SARI. SINGKAMAS AT TALONG, ...
... SIGARILYAS...
... AT...
... MANI...

TARGET IS BEYOND REASON. . . UNIT WILL DESTROY THE THREAT.
MDK * PROGRAM INITIATED. HOMEBASE PLEASE COMPLY.
YOU HAVE CLEARANCE FOR MDK UNIT A.T. - 01f
HETO NA PO! HANDA NA ANG YANTOK NA BABASAG SA PALAYOK!
VVASHNNN
LUMABAS KA NA! TAPUSIN NA NATIN 'TO!
VOOOOOOOMM!!
SOLDIER,
YOU LEFT ME WITH
VFZHNNN!
VFZHNNN!
NO CHOICE.
DIYOS KO!

SABI NILA, MAKIKITA MO ANG LAHAT NG PANGYAYARI SA IYONG BUHAY KAPAG MALAPIT KA NANG MAMATAY.
BAKIT WALA AKONG MAKITANG GANOON? DAHIL BA SA HINDI AKO TAKOT SA KAMATAYAN O AYAW KO LANG PANIWALAANG MAMAMATAY NA AKO?
MAHIRAP TALAGA MAGING MAANGAS SA GIYERA.
SALAMAT PO PANGINOON SA LAHAT NG BIYAYANG IBINIGAY MO SA AKIN.
KAYO LAMANG ANG NAGBIBIGAY AT KUMUKUPKOP SA BUHAY NG ISANG NILALANG. SANA PO AY NALUGOD KAYO SA LAHAT NG AKING MGA NAGAWA.
SALAMAT PO SA BUHAY KONG ITO.
SALAMAT PO SA ARAW NA ITO AT SA LAHAT NG INYONG MGA BIYAYA.
HINDI KO MAN NALIGTAS ANG BATANG BIHAG, GINAWA KO NA ANG LAHAT NG AKING MAKAKAYA PARA MAKUHA SIYA. AMEN.

KANINA...
KEEEEEEESH!
MAY PANIBAGONG DROPSHIP NA PARATING!
ISSHO! LING! NASAAN NA KAYO!
BADOOM
KANINA PA NAMIN NAPANSIN ANG AMERIKAN DROPSHIP. MALAPIT NA KAMI SA KANILANG DROPZONE.
ANG HILIG NINYO KASING MAGDALDALAN EH! KAMUSTA NA BA DIYAN RAJAH?
TUTULUNGAN NAMIN NI JOANNE SI RAYA PAGKATAPOS NAMING ITAGO ANG BATA.
IPINA-CHECK KO NA SIYA SA AKING POPULATION ROSTER FILE AT ANG SABI DITO,
ANAK SIYA NG ISANG DR. JONATHAN MORALES ROBOTIC AT CYBERNETIC RESEARCHER SIYA NG SOL RESEARCH CENTER.
HALA, MAMAYA NA ANG DADA!
KAYO NA MUNA ANG BAHALA SA MGA PANIBAGONG A.T.-01.
MAYROONG PROTO-SOLACE NA NAUNA SA AMIN. AT ANG GALING NIYANG MAKIPAGLABAN!
WOW! HI-TECH!
ENJOY! HANEP!
MAGSI-TIGIL NGA KAYO!
TULUNGAN NIYO! (NAKU NAMAN O!)

MANGA CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Yuu Watase

Birth Info: A Pisces born on March 5th, 1970. Born and raised in Osaka.
Bloodtype: B
Interests: Video, music appreciation and reading books. Likes Sci-fi, fantasy and comedy. Prefers to listen to BGM-ish stuff rather than vocals... Doesn't like Enka or Heavy Metal. Work is still her biggest interest though!
Debut work: "Pajama de Ojama" (Published in the 1989 No.3 issue of Shojo Comics)

Presently very busy working for Shojo Comics

Ah, Ms. Yuu Watase, the guest of honor for the first Philippine Anime Expo! Truly an honor!

Ms. Watase arrived on Saturday and had already been making quite a reputation as a prima donna to the organizers. She was touchy this, touchy that, gets easily dizzy in traffic, no flash photographies please or I get seizures, no oily food please, etc, etc. You get the idea. Attending her press conference though, I found her to be quite gracious and totally approachable. (Even got her to sign a lucky friend's graphic novel!)

Yes! That info on her is on the money, she is in fact, 30 years old! The years seem to have been good to her hasn't it? I bet she is now part of many Pinoy Otakus' fantasies.

Her first arrival at the Expo can be likened to a force of nature. The Megatrade hall shook and thundered with cheers and undying worshipping upon the announcement of her presence. To Ms. Watase's amusement ther was this small group of people who kept bowing in worship to her every answer.

After her short appearance at the Convention, she retired back to her room at the nearby Shangri-la Edsa Plaza hotel. Now I figure there's a little story here that's worth mentioning. Along with Anima Anime and AXN CC COM was also invited to have dinner with Ms. Watase and the three directors. But for some very valid reasons that can be somewhat sensitive, we passed it up. Needless to say, we felt like banging our heads to the nearest concrete wall. I mean for goodness sake! That would have been incredible! Not to mention the bragging rights! Wait a sec' we can brag about turning down dinner with Ms. Watase! Nah, it's just not the same. Anyway, Jan of Anima Anime and I even had quite a bit of discussion about this. Oh the humanity! The humanity! Still, if we were in the same position again, I think we would have made the same decision.

Anyway, the Press Conference at IMA restaurant Sunday morning was also marred by a little shall we say, fiasco? But to no fault of Ms. Watase or any of the directofrs really.

In her interview later that day, Ms. Watase had gone on record in saying that the most recent anime that she was most impressed with was "Vision of Escaflowne". Its premise of a normal girl entering a dream world and all the romantic touches was something she felt was really close to her. It was all the more impressive for her since the production staff were mostly male. When asked what she thought about her fans in the Philippines, Ms. Watase said that normally fans outside Japan were much more enthusiastic. But in the Philippines it was even more so! She said that she had never felt so much warmth before and that she felt that it was as if ther was a whole festival just for her.

Reports say that Ms. Watase left Monday afternoon but not before securing a few articles for auction/donatio including a one-of-a-kind sketch that she had made the night before in her hotel room.

Having the likes of Ms. Watase at the Anime Expo was really amazing. Just two to three years ago, somethin like this would have been unimaginable and yet here we have it. From all indications I think Ms. Watase woul love to come and visit again, perhaps if her next creation, Ayashi no Ceres catches on as well?

ANIMÉ EXPLOSION 2000

The first ever, Anime Expo in the Philippines! Wow! I have to admit, when I first began my journey into the Anime world I never would have thought that something like this would ever happen.

Back in those days people hardly knew what "anime" was. I was hard pressed in trying to convert and introduce people into the world of anime. Only a handful of us could still remember the song lyrics of Voltes V. But heck, that was yesterday, this is now.

Although there are some who dislike the fact on how anime has become mainstream in the Philippines, I for one am exhilarated to see that so many people are now enjoying it. And for it to have become a phenomena and elicited an event this big! It is indeed an exciting time to be an anime fan! (or otaku, whichever you prefer)

The first day of the event foretold of doom and failure beyond imaginings. As the cracking thunder, howling winds and cascading rainfall impeded otakus everywhere. But nature was as to nothing compared to the burning hearts of Pinoy otakus! (Is it me or am I getting too poetically cliché here?) Stories of kids and teens alike pestering friends and parents to try and see the event thru the first day was common fanfare. In fact, some people even showed up! All well and good people, but safety first OK? Kudos from the one from Baguio! I feel for you man!

The second day was again hampered by traffic, which was heavier than usual even by Saturday standards thanks to the Anti-Erap rally. Anyway, all the events thru day one and two were compressed on the second day so it was pretty jam-packed. There was the ceremonial opening and the martial arts demo. It was OK, but I think it would have been a lot more appropriate if they choreographed a fight scene instead. The kiddie AXN cheerleaders jumped and cheered all about. Participating bands performed for free and put an admirable performance, a special note to the NeoOtaku who put up the best performance hands-down. Great Larc'nCiel cover people! You DO know your audience! Well, the hard-core ones anyway.

The people exploded in uncontrolled cheers and blatant worshipping upon Ms. Yuu Watase's arrival. Everyone had this oogly-giggly look on their faces as they looked on and admired the pretty Fushigi Yuugi creator. Ms. Watase was obviously quite overwhelmed and surprised at how she was received and sported the same oogly-giggly look.

Then came the Cosplay. Pinoy otakus strutted their stuff like ramp models as the audience cheered on their favorites. Some were actually so good even Ms. Watase started clicking away with her flash-armed camera. Ms. Watase also picked the winner for the on-the-spot drawing contest.

The third day was pretty much autograph day. Ms. Watase held a press conference at the nearby IMA restaurant which went with quite a bit of, shall we say, "incident". After that she went on to sign various articles for 180 lucky people. The winners for the drawing contests in the non-pro and pro categories were also announced later in the day. After Ms. Watase was interviewed by the press, the Toei directors took over the limelight to give out autographs as well.

The fourth day (officially the third) was, well, uneventful really. Except for the auction of various items from Ms. Watase that included an original sketch! And... ah, well, they shouldn't have charged people on that day really, because it was pretty much closing time.

The Expo was well-attended and I think it has shaken up a lot of pre-conceptions within the industry. An estimated 11,000 people were admitted and thousands more were turned away. Anime is definitely now more popular than ever. So when will the next Expo be? Will it be better? While this was quite an enjoyable experience, there is definitely a lot of room for improvement. Next time, I hope that the fans have more say in the program. And for goodness sakes, let's not forget about merchandise next time.

Still, before one can run, one has to start with small baby steps!

NAN'DON KAMI!!!

Pictured here are Jio, Elmer and Taga-Ilog.

Batou was our pick for the Cosplay!

What? Culture Crash at the Expo?!? That's right people! We were there! We were the ones selling copies of CC!

Culture Crash actually created such a commotion during the first day of the Expo that the opening program was totally disrupted and ACPI President had to ask us to try and control the crowd! There were literally waves of people that pushed their way to our collective booths. There was so much excitement that our tables were pushed inches forward. We were all taken aback by the great response when we started giving away limited copies of the first issue. I kid you not friends, I stood on a table and what I saw was a sea of people!

Even when we started selling copies, the people still kept coming! We disposed close to 400 copies in under five hours. CC artists even started giving away on-the-spot sketches as a way of gratitude.

So what does one say to something like this? We can only say this to the people who received us with such intensity: thank you, thank you, thank you. You are the best! You make our sleepless nights worth it! Special thanks to the people who expressed what they thought of Culture Crash.

We would especially like to give our thanks to AXN for sponsoring our presence at the Expo, as well as being the Major Sponsor for the Anime Expo. "We love AXN!!!" Also to Anima Anime for all their help!

Our booth was supplied by ANIMA ANIME & AXN

COS PLAY

We tried to get the real names of the winners of the Cosplay, unfortunately we have an incomplete list, hope it's ok with you guys!

Grand Winners
(picked by Ms. Yuu Watase) :
Miaka – Hazel Concepcion
Tasuki – Cy Marcelo

Audience Pick :
Duo Maxwell – Sasa Morales

Special Mention:
Tomo - Paul Mendoza
Hotohori - Mark Suarez
Kaoru Kamiya - Sonia Wee
Hajime Saito - JM Chua
Shishio - Jan Macaranas
EVA01 - Roberto Wong
Bellidandy - Sheila Benedicto
Yuumi Komagata
Hiban

Most of the Cosplayers now have an org and if you are interested you can sign up with their egroups at pinoy_cosplay-subscribe@egroups.com

Definitely the most enjoyable part of the Anime Expo! The Cosplay was a huge success and drew on big cheers from the audience. The participants came in elaborately prepared costumes inspired by some of their favorite anime characters.

Yes, yes, I know that some of you hate this part. Sacrilige! Blasphemy! You've probably seen photos from some anime magazine of how your favorite character had been desecrated by a representative from reality. But you know what? They weren't half-bad! I was really surprised at how well it all turned out! I mean for goodness sakes, even Ms. Yuu Watase was impressed and excited enough to have her camera go a'flashing! (Tsk, tsk, and they said flashing wasn't allowed! Bias! Bias!)

The play itself, quite ironically, was not really the highlight of the Cosplay, but the parade of the characters themselves. People cheered as Saito was played to perfection complete with cigarette and mean demeanor! Tomo had one heck of a make-up job. Shishio looked as crazy as ever and my oh my, does anybody have Miaka's phone number? There were two Tasukis (both cool) but the winning one really had the girls squeling like crazy! (Was that real leather? What material did he use?!?)

I have to admit the overall modeling of the participants went on a lot cooler than I expected. The choice of music was also surprisingly cool. The upbeat techno-trance music was really great and it helped liven things up even though the whole thing took a bit of time. I was half-expecting them to break out the Astroboy theme or something. (I like the song but it would have been reaaallly inappropriate.)

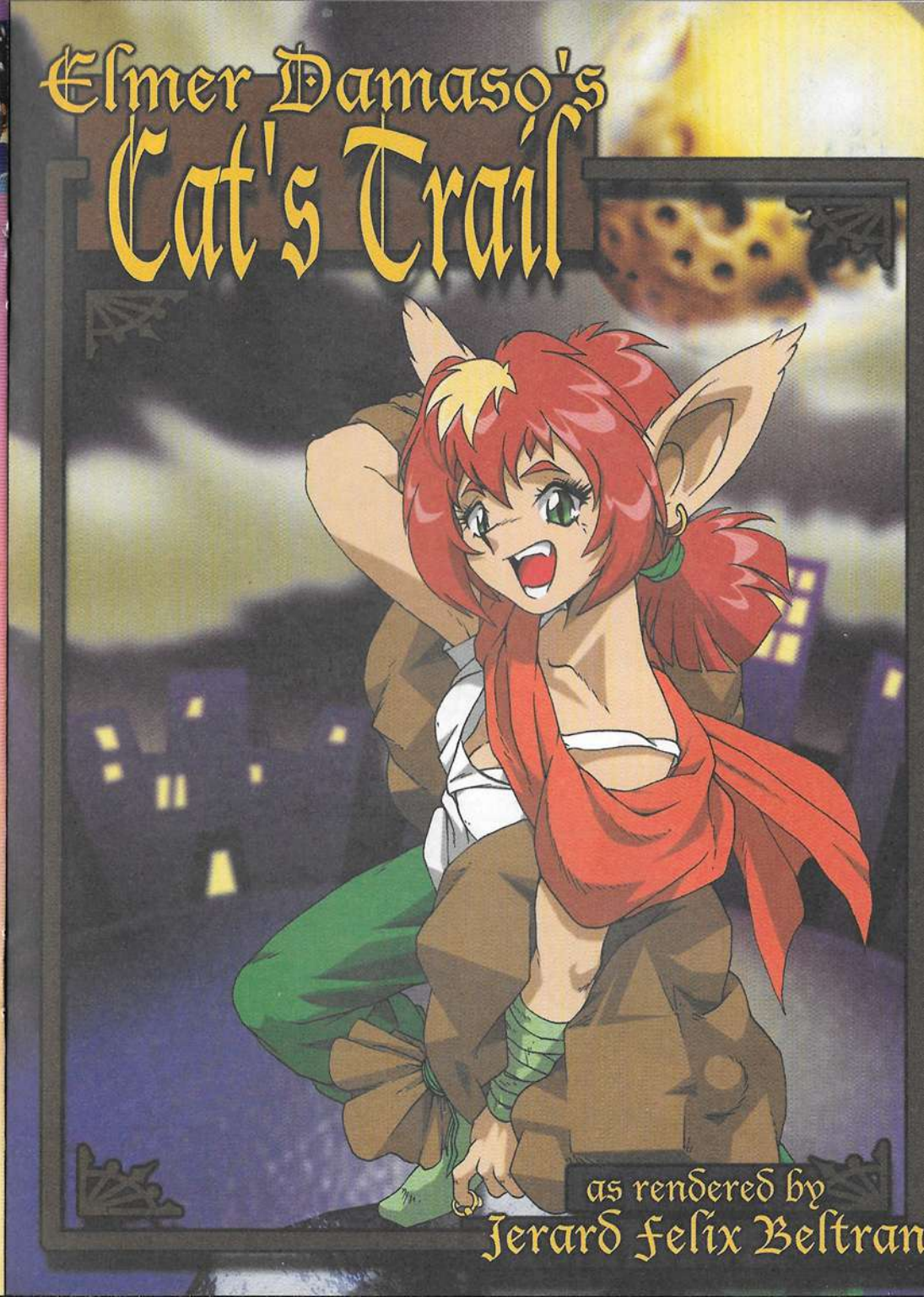
I truly envy the participants. Before the whole show, I was going around doing rounds and the excitement in the air was so thick you could feel it in your skin. So much so that even I couldn't help but feel excited! It was that happy-can't-wipe-that-big-smile-off-my-face type of excitement! The hair on my skin were even standing on end!

I thought of how lucky these kids were. For one day they could be their favorite anime characters. They could go around wearing these costumes and people wouldn't think them weird. They were cool! And for the day they would be called Saito, Rinoa, Zell, Miaka or whatever. And I think of how lucky they are to have participated in the first ever Anime Expo in the Philippines in such a manner. A story to be told indeed!

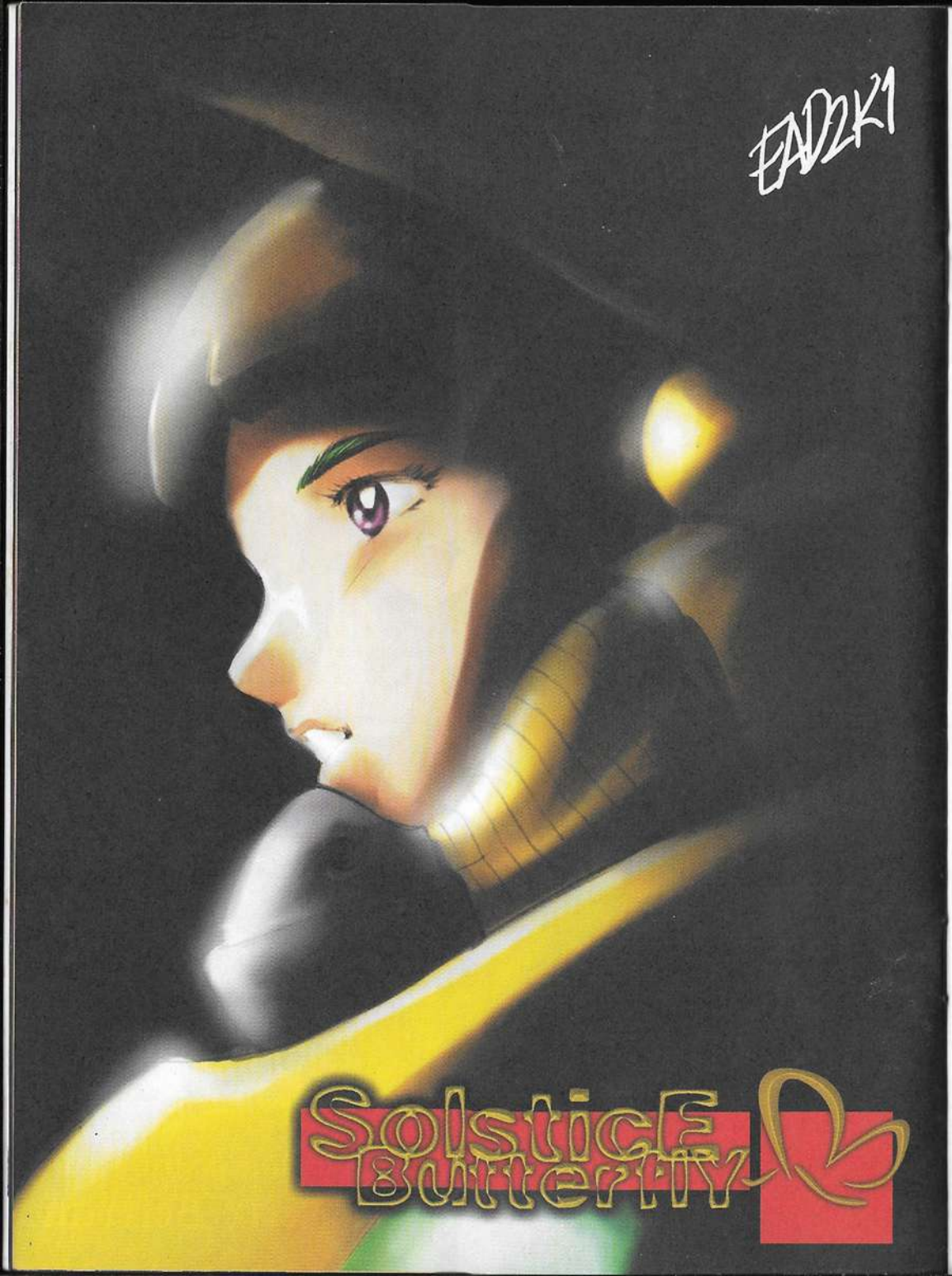
All this makes me sort of wish this happened when I was a lot younger. When participating in a Cosplay wouldn't be as half-embarrassing as it would be for me today. Oh well! Guess I'll just enjoy watching the next one! You know that costume would probably look good on me! Hmmm...

Special thanks to: Noelle De Guzman, Leandro Polidario, Pam Ang, Sasa Morales and Hazel Concepcion for providing us with some of their photos of the EXPO! Also to Ms. Donna Medina for helping out with the Watase interview

Elmer Damaso's Cat's Trail



as rendered by
Jerard Felix Beltran

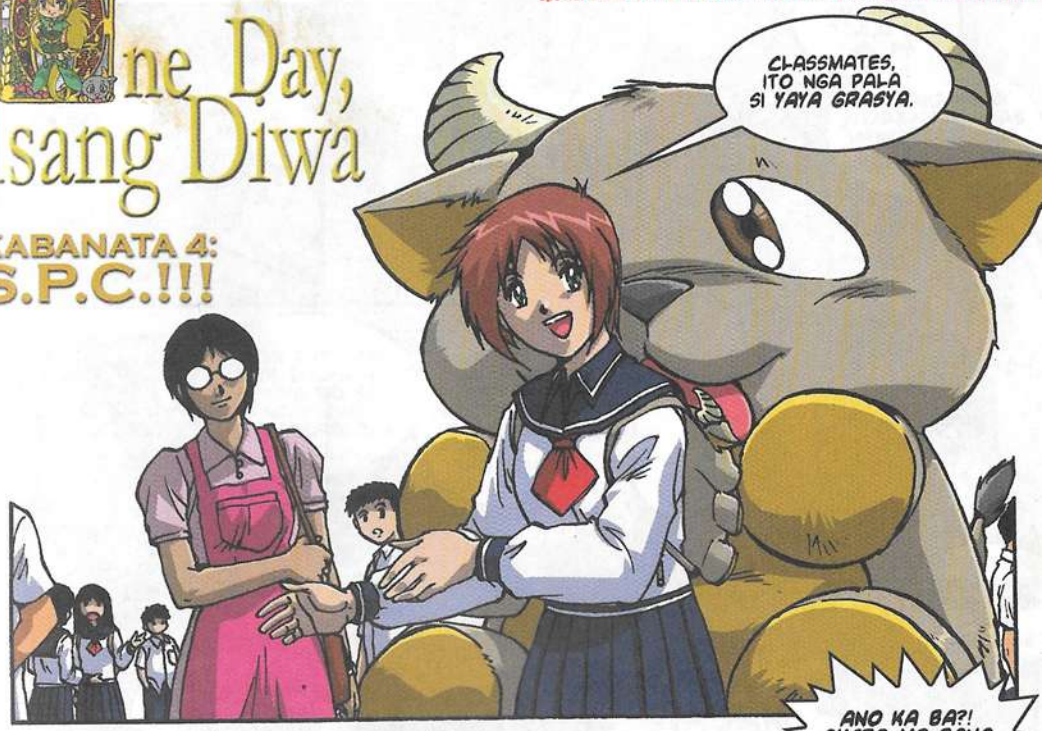


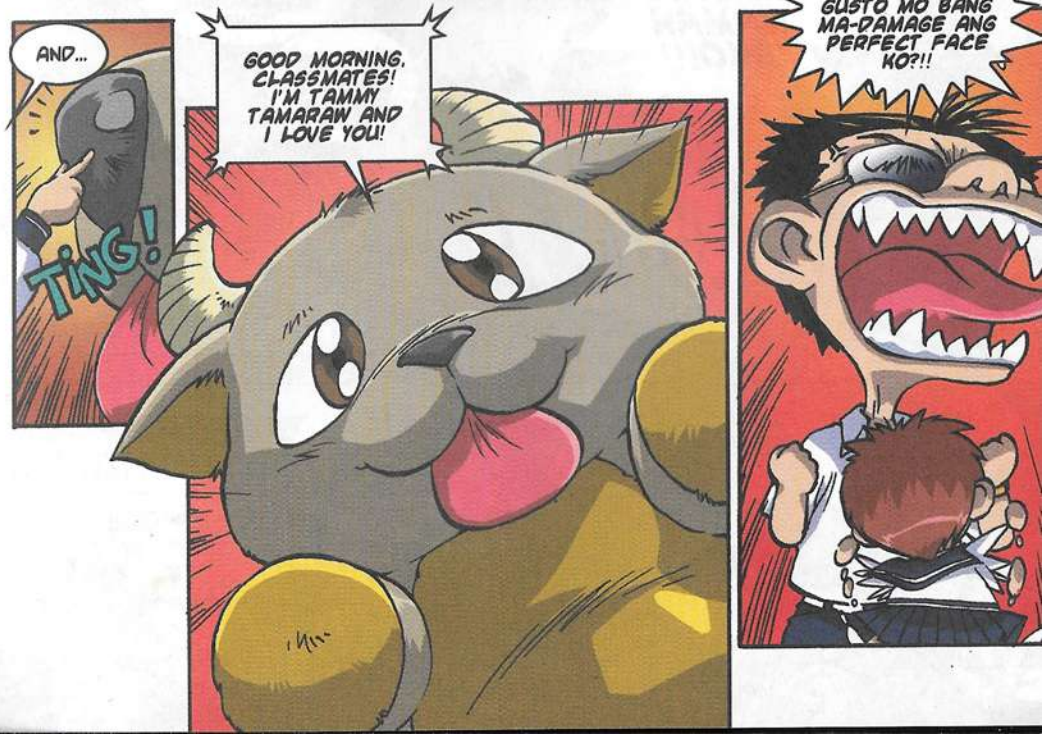
One Day, Isang Diwa

KABANATA 4: S.P.C.!!!

Story by: J. L. Palabay Art by: E. A. Damaso

* Special thanks to Ms. Diwa G. Fernandez for helping us with color flats for this issue *





ANO?!?
ANO ANG PROBLEMA NG MUNDO SA 'KIN?
KASALANAN KO BANG IPINANGANAK AKONG SAKSAKAN NG GUWAPO'T YAMAN?
MR. DELA ROSA !!!
YOU ARE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE! YOU WILL SEE ME AFTER THE FLAG CEREMONY!
MA'AM, NAMAN! BAKA PWEDE NATING 'TONG PAG-USAPAN NA LANG NGAYON?
MR. DELA ROSA ISA AKONG EDUCATOR AND AS SUCH I AM INCORRUPTABLE ... SAKA...
BAKIT N'YO KO LAGING KINAI-INGGITAN
MABAIT NAMAN AKO!!!
SHOOM
BA! LEO, ANDAMI YATA N'YAN A! MAGKANO BA 'YAN?
KONTI LANG 'YAN, MA'AM. GUSTO N'YO DAGDAGAN KO PA?
HUMANDA SA LUPANG HINIRANG...
AHEM! CONFISCATED MUNA ITO. UMAYOS NA MUNA KAYONG LAHAT.
?

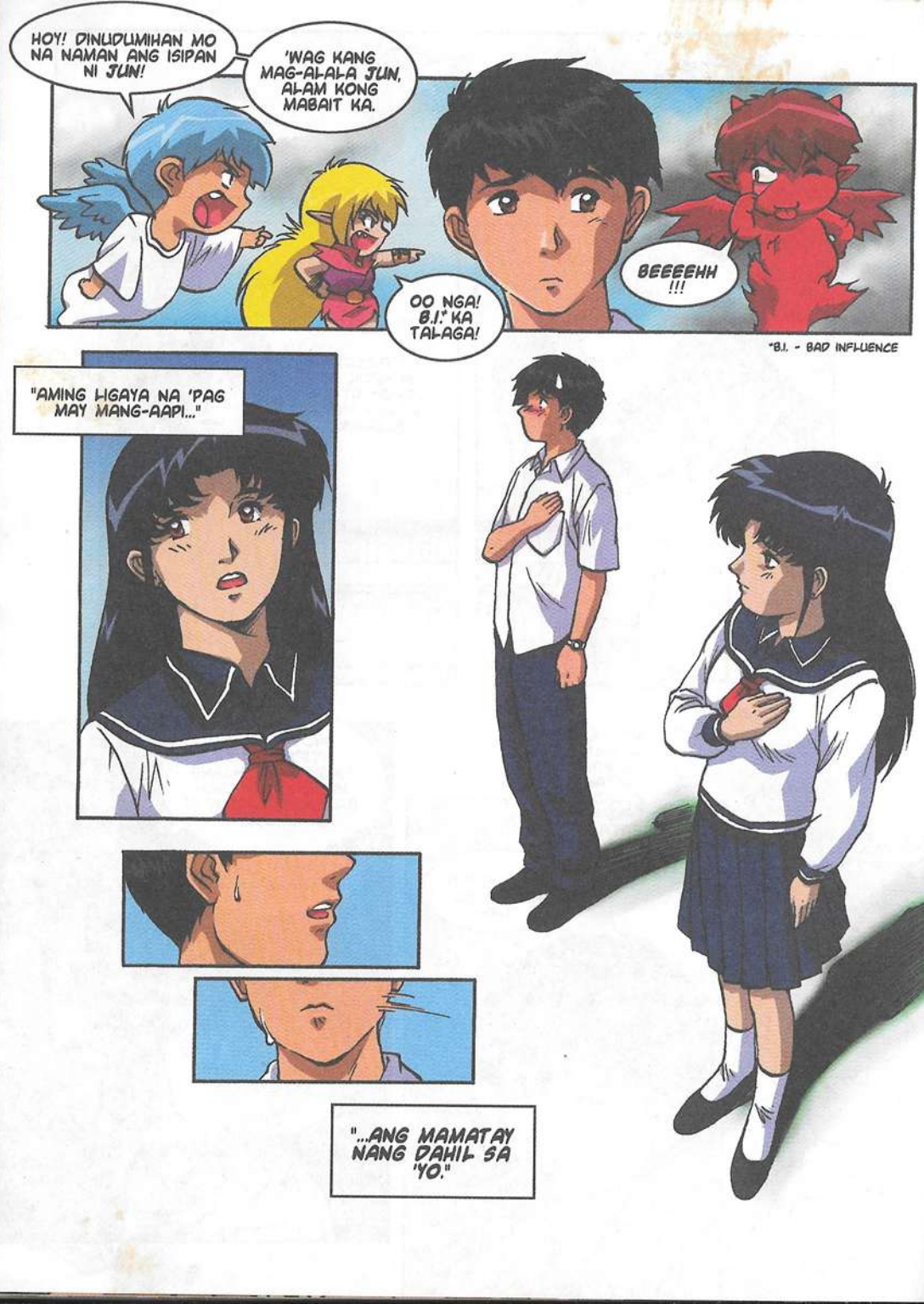
"BAYANG MAGILIW... PERLAS NG SILA-NGANAN..."
"... ALAB NG PUSO SA DIBDIB MO'Y BUHAY..."

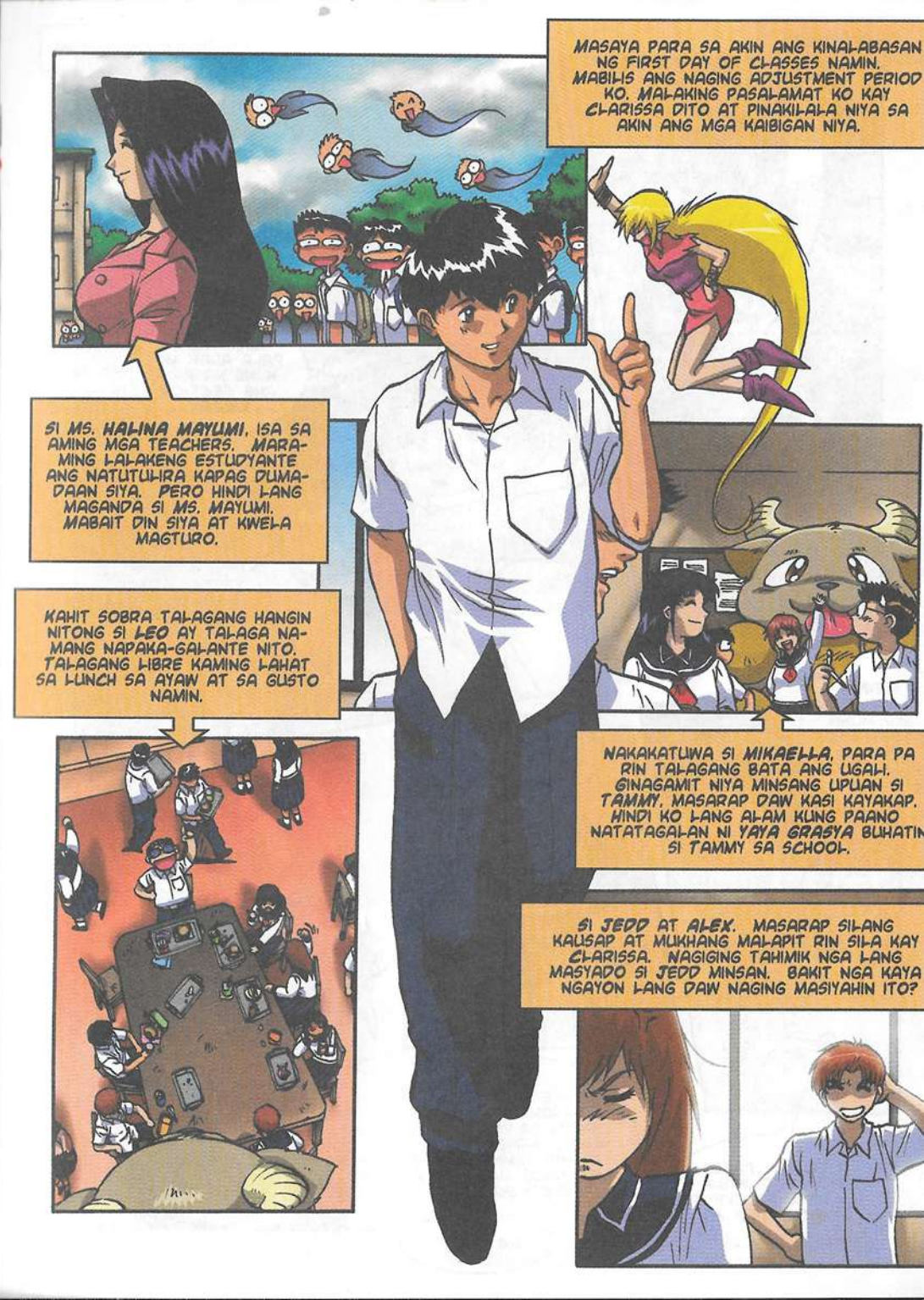
"LUPANG HINIRANG DUYAN KA NG MAGITING.."
...

"...SA MANLULUPIG 'DI KA PASISIL."
"SA DAGAT AT BUNDOK, SA SIMOY AT SA LANGIT MONG BUGHAW..."

AHEM!
IHO, MUKHANG MASYADO KANG NADEDEVELOP D'YAN KAY CLARISSA A! TANDAAN MO, BATA KA PA!
BAKA PUPPY LOVE LANG 'YAN!

ANO'NG PUPPY-PUPPY LOVE? TINGNAN MO NGANG MABUTI, E HINUHUBARAN NA NI JUN SI CLARISSA E!
'DI BA, JUN? HEHEHEHEHEH!!!


HOY! DINUDUMIHAN MO NA NAMAN ANG ISIPAN NI JUN!
'WAG KANG MAG-ALALA JUN, ALAM KONG MABAIT KA.
BEEEEHH !!!
OO NGA! B.I.* KA TALAGA!
*B.I. - BAD INFLUENCE
"AMING LIGAYA NA 'PAG MAY MANG-AAPI..."
"...ANG MAMATAY NANG DAHIL SA 'YO."


MASAYA PARA SA AKIN ANG KINALABASAN NG FIRST DAY OF CLASSES NAMIN. MABILIS ANG NAGING ADJUSTMENT PERIOD KO. MALAKING PASALAMAT KO KAY CLARISSA DITO AT PINAKILALA NIYA SA AKIN ANG MGA KAIBIGAN NIYA.
SI MS. HALINA MAYUMI, ISA SA AMING MGA TEACHERS. MARAMING LALAKENG ESTUDYANTE ANG NATUTULIRA KAPAG DUMADAAN SIYA. PERO HINDI LANG MAGANDA SI MS. MAYUMI. MABAIT DIN SIYA AT KWELA MAGTURO.
KAHIT SOBRA TALAGANG HANGIN NITONG SI LEO AY TALAGA NAMANG NAPAKA-GALANTE NITO. TALAGANG LIBRE KAMING LAHAT SA LUNCH SA AYAW AT SA GUSTO NAMIN.
NAKAKATUWA SI MIKAELLA, PARA PA RIN TALAGANG BATA ANG UGALI. GINAGAMIT NIYA MINSANG UPUAN SI TAMMY, MASARAP DAW KASI KAYAKAP. HINDI KO LANG ALAM KUNG PAANO NATATAGALAN NI YAYA GRASYA BUHATIN SI TAMMY SA SCHOOL.
SI JEDD AT ALEX. MASARAP SILANG KAUSAP AT MUKHANG MALAPIT RIN SILA KAY CLARISSA. NAGIGING TAHIMIK NGA LANG MASYADO SI JEDD MINSAN. BAKIT NGA KAYA NGAYON LANG DAW NAGING MASIYAHIN ITO?

KINAHAPUNAN...
PARENG JUN!!!
PARE KUMUSTA NA? OK BA FIRST DAY NATIN?
BAKA NGA PALA ALAM MO KUNG NASAAN ANG SECTION SIERRA.
BENJO ...
SIERRA KA RIN?!? IBIG MONG SABIHIN MAG-KAKLASE PALA TAYO?
BA'T NGAYON LANG PALA KITA NAKITA?
'NGA PALA PARE, BAKA PUWEDE MO 'KO PAUTANGIN. HINDI KO KASI NAPANSING NAUBOS KO NA PALA ALLOWANCE KO NGAYONG LINGGO E!
A TALAGA, PARE? AYOS! E 'DI WALA NA 'KONG PROBLEMA SA SCHEDULE KO!
PARE KASI ME BAGONG GAME DOON SA VIDEO-HAN E! HANEP NGA E, ANG GALING NG INTERFACE, NAKAKA-ADDICT! SOBRA!
DA BOMB!!!

MGA KAMAY SA DILIM!
MMPHHH...
ARF! ARF!
DALI!!! DALHIN SILA DITO!
SKRITCH
SPLAG!
SIGE! SA SHED NA LANG MUNA AKO MAGHIHIN-TAY.
WAG! ANTAYIN NA LANG NATIN SI LEO. PARA IHATID TAYONG LAHAT.
SIGE CLARISSA, TUTUL-UNGAN KO LANG SI ALEX SA MGA LIBRONG ITO.

HINDI AKO 'YON! PAKA-WALAN N'YO 'KO!
INOSENTE AKO!!!
SORRY NA! AKALA KO KASI HINDI NA KAKAININ 'YUN E!
TUMAHIMIK KA!!!
SAKA NAPULOT KO LANG NAMAN ANG WALLET E!
TUMAHIMIK KA!!!
IKAW JUN MORALES! SINO KA AT ANO ANG INTERES MO KAY CLARISSA?
TOK!
UGOK! KILALA NA NATIN SIYA!
BAMPAL!!!
ANAK NG... MASAKIT 'YON A!
ME GUSTO KA BA SA KANYA? ANG KAPAL MO RIN 'NO?
BALAK MO BA SIYANG LIGAWAN?
ANO KARAPATAN MO? MAYAMAN KA BA TULAD NI LEO? MAIPAGTATANGGOL MO BA SIYA GAYA NI JEDD?
SINO BA TALAGA KAYO?
SIGE, BUTI PA TANGGALIN NA ANG BLINDFOLDS.

KAMI AY NABUBUHAY UPANG PAGLINGKURAN SIYA!
ANG MGA PUMUPUKAW SA MGA NAIS GAMBALAAIN ANG KINABUKASAN NG AMING DIYOSA ...
KAMI ANG...
KAMI ANG ILAW NA NAGBABANTAY SA GITNA NG DILIM...
TIGA-SUPIL NG MGA BOLERO, MANI-OLOKO AT NG MGA NAIS UMANGKIN SA KANYA.
...S...
...P...
...C!!!
ANG SAMAHANG PARA KAY CLARISSA!!!
'PARA SA MGA MASUSID NAMING MAMBABASA, MAPAPANSIN N'YO NA NUONG SECOND ISSUE PA KAMI NAG-CAMEO APPEARANCE! MARAMING SALAMAT PO! BACK TO YOU, MIKE!'
OOOOOO NGAAAAA 'NOOOOO...

"JAMES, NALIMUTAN MO YATA ANG PANGALAN NI BENJO SA FIRST ISSUE A!"

"HINDE! A... ANO 'YAN... AAA... KASI SA WRITING 'YAN ANG TINATAWAG NA SUSPENSE... CHARACTER BUILD-UP BA..."

GALING AH! IYAN BA ANG TINATAWAG NA FORESHADOWING DEVICE?

OO BENJO, PERFECT EXAMPLE 'YAN!

GALING TALAGA NG WRITER NATIN 'NO?

"OWS?"

"AYAW MO YATANG SUMWELDO NGAYON E! EHEM!"

"YEHEEEY!!! GALING NI BOSS!!! HANEP!!!

SAMANTALA...

HA?!?

WALA TAYONG PRENO!!!

SKRATCH

ITUTULOY

TAMMY... HUWAG KANG TUTUMBA...

HMMM...

...AT IKAW NAMAN... DOON MO IPATONG 'YUNG KA-HON...

SINO BA 'YUNG NAKASILIP DOON?

...INGAT LANG DIYAN SA REGALO KO. MAMA-HALIN YAN!

OKS 'TONG DRUMS A!

KAYONG DALAWA ANG MAG-BABANTAY DITO SA LUGAR NA 'TO...

CCCOM HOLIDAY SPECIAL

CONCEPT AND ART BY: THE CCCOM STAFF

Please don't sue us. The characters you will see here are not who they appear to be. Plus... we don't have any money.

^_^

JUN! NANDITO NA SILA!

HA?! HINDI PA TAYO HANDA...

E JANUARY NA A! HINDI KA PA BA BABABA DIYAN?

BLAG!!! BLAG!! BLAGG!!

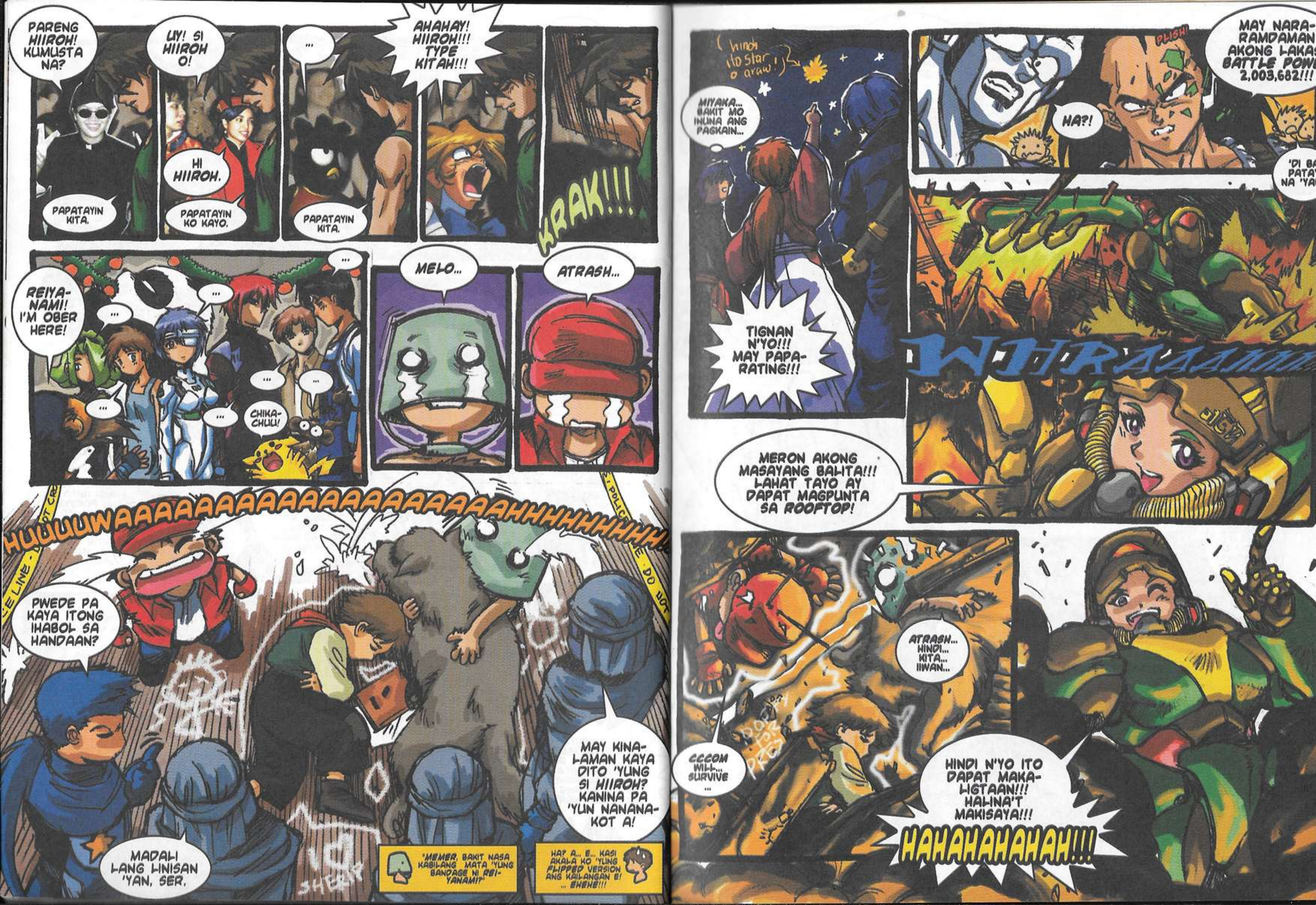
IKAW NGA E... NAKA-SANTA SUIT PA RIN...

?!?

HINDI MABUBUO ANG HANDAAN KUNG WALANG CAKE!
OI! 'WAG N'YO 'KONG KALIMUTAN!
HOY, BABAE, MUNTIK NA AKONG MA-OSPITAL SA LUTO MO NOON!
AHH... OK, CAKE PALA 'YON.
'BAT AMOY PULBURA?
'KALA KO JEBBS.
SKLABAGG
MINA, SAAN BA NATIN ILALAGAY 'TONG PAGKAIN?
UY! AYOS! NAGLUTO PALA SI DANTE!
BUTI NA LANG... LAHAT KASI NG LUTO NIYANG SI MINA, NILALAGYAN NG BETSIN.
HEH,HEH, JEBBS.
TAWAG MO 'KO?
ANO 'YUNG ILAY BERDE, PECHAY?
HINDI, KANGKONG!
AT LEAST KAPAG NAG-BROWN OUT MAY KANDILA NA TAYO.
PARANG MAY NAGBUKAS NG DAMPI DAMPI SA BUS!
SLORTAZZ
AAAAAHHHH!!!
POOM!
KA-BOOM!

SER, MAY NAGWAWALA PO DITO SA LOOB! ANO PO'NG GAGAWIN NAMIN?
HINDI NA 'YAN MAHALAGA! BASTA BANTAYAN NINYO ANG MGA REGALO...
UMMM... SER...
KINUHA NA PO NI SANTA CLAUS ANG MGA REGALO.
ANO?!?
HUHUHU... CLARISSA, SAVE ME!
HO-HO-HO-HO-HO!!! HEE-HEE-HEE!!!
WOW! POLARIS, BAGAY PALA SA 'YONG MAY ILONG A!
P*#@H.
SHADDAP.
SUWAGIN KAYA KITA!
HUDAS! HESTAS! BARABAS! UBAS! BAYABAS! AT IBA PANG MAY "AS"!!!
SI SANTA AY NAMIMIGAY! HINDI NANGUNGUHA!

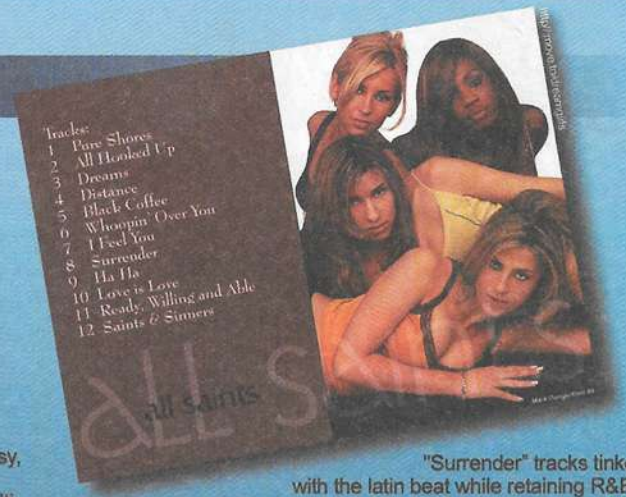
KAPAL MO NAMAN KUYA! BAKIT BAULDLY ANG BINIGAY MO?!
TUMAHIMIK-KAYONG-LAHAT!!!
E IKAW NGA HO-THOTAI LANG E!
NAKITA MO BA SI WICHARD?
POJA! POJA!!! HINDI AKO KOKE-MON! TIGILAN MO NA 'KO! POJA!
NAKITA MO SI MAMON-LUK KO?
SIGE NA! HULHIN MO! NANG-AAGAW NG TIME-SLOT 'YAN!
PULIS
AHEM!
ANG CCCOM FIGHTERS!!!
?
BA'T MAY TIMBA?
SOLI BAYAD!
SINO RAW?
AAAYYY... AKALA KO SI WICHARD ...
IPINAKIKILALA ANG INIIDOLO NG MARAMI! ANG NAG-BAGO NG INDUSTRIYA NG COMICS SA PILIPINAS ...
UUUYY! MAY PAGKAIN NA TAYO!
ANO 'YUN? JEBS?
AY, YUCK! 'YOKO NIYAN! GAWA NI MINA.
BUTI NA LANG SI BELLYDUNDY ANG NAGLU-LUTO SA BAHAY.
HWWWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
HELLO? HELLOOO...
PARANG AYOKO NGA E! BAKA GAWA 'TO NI MINA ...
KAKAININ MO BA 'YAN?
ABA! VEGGIE, TENSHINGHAM, ANAK N'YO BA 'YUNG TSUMITSIBOG SA MESA? KAYO HA... ALAM BA NI BLUMA 'YAN?
EHERM !!!
ANO'NG...
...SINABI MO?
KASHMMMM!!!
HEUJENE! HINDI PA TAPOS ANG ATING LABAN! ISANG POR-SYENTO PA LANG NG KAPANGYARIHAN KO ANG AKING GINAGAMIT!
A.. E... AYOS LANG! HETO O... ISANG PORSYENTO PA LANG ITO NG AKING ALLOWANCE. BAKA PUWEDE NATIN 'TONG PAG-USAPAN... HEHEHEHE...
AHA!!! MR. DOUBLE DOLLARS!!! DITO LANG PALA KITA MA-KIKITA! TAMANG-TAMA! MATAAS NA ANG PESO EXCHANGE NGAYON!
TAPOS KA NA NGAYON !!!


PARENG HIIROH! KUMUSTA NA?
PAPATAYIN KITA.
UY! SI HIIROH O!
HI HIIROH.
PAPATAYIN KO KAYO.
...
AHAHAY! HIIROH!!! TYPE KITAH!!!
PAPATAYIN KITA.
KRAK!!!
REIYA-NAMI! I'M OBER HERE!
...
CHIKA-CHUU!
MELO...
ATRASH...
HUUUUWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!
PWEDE PA KAYA ITONG IHABOL SA HANDAAN?
MADALI LANG LINISAN 'YAN, SER.
MAY KINA-LAMAN KAYA DITO 'YUNG SI HIIROH? KANINA PA 'YUN NANANA-KOT A!
"MEMER, BAKIT NASA KABILANG MATA 'YUNG BANDAGE NI REI-YANAMI?"
HA? A... E... KASI AKALA KO 'YUNG FLIPPED VERSION ANG KAILANGAN E! ... EHEHE!!!
(hindi ito star o araw!)
MIYAKA... BAKIT MO INUNA ANG PAGKAIN...
TIGNAN N'YO!!! MAY PAPA-RATING!!!
HA?!
PLISH!
MAY NARA-RAMDAMAN AKONG LAKAS BATTLE POW 2,003,682!!!
'DI BA PATA NA 'YA
WHIRAAAMM
MERON AKONG MASAYANG BALITA!!! LAHAT TAYO AY DAPAT MAGPUNTA SA ROOFTOP!
ATRASH... HINDI... KITA... IIWAN...
CCCOM WILL... SURVIVE ...
HINDI N'YO ITO DAPAT MAKA-LIGTAAN!!! HALINA'T MAKISAYA!!!
HAHAHAHAHAH!!!

MUSIC

Halos and Horns - All Saints

by Bernie Sim



All Saints look exactly like they sound. Sassy, hip, and strong, the four sultry-lipped Saints made their mark in music history with their multi-awarded "Never Ever" single from their 1997 debut album. Now, despite having released their No.1 UK hit single, "Pure Shores", months back in The Beach soundtrack, the lure of Shaznay, Melanie, Nicole and Natalie's haunting vocals on a techno-candy track had All Saints fans salivating for more.

Their 2nd album, Saints or Sinners, is smart, sexy and playfully slinky but shows more musical maturity and variety than their 1997 album. Their 2nd track, "All Hooked Up", showcases cheeky, boy-slapping lyrics with guitars purring in the background. Shaznay's breezy raps pepper "Ha Ha", a signature All Saints street smart tune. "Dreams" embodies the classic chill-out song thanks to co-producer William Orbit's techno teasings and the Saints' smooth vocals. The "Distance" and "Surrender" tracks tinker with the latin beat while retaining R&B's groove. "I Feel You" is likewise a trippy, intense track that sets your hips gyrating and your head bopping, while their heavy and moody "Ready, Willing and Able" and "Black Coffee" tracks go straight to your head, playing music-mind games inside your little coconut.

All Saints, who write and compose their own songs, delve into party animal mode with the retro-ish "Whoopin' Over You", a song which reminds you of those Austin Powers 60's disco scenes. Fast forward to the 21st century and you get the racy "Love is Love", an electronic track straight out of a Gran Turismo soundtrack, only better. The last track, "Saints & Sinners" is a mix of extreme tempos with edgy guitar riffs and naughty vocals that would lead you to think these Saints are not as holy as they seem.

Won't us little sinners be glad.

Plumb

CANDY-COATED WATERDROPS

by AJ Esguerra

Nashville has been an incubation area for a lot of Christian musicians such as the multi-platinum, award-winning band Jars of Clay. Another artist to emerge from this place is Plumb. There are people who think that Plumb is a group, actually Plumb is Tiffany Arbuckle, and she has a band that comes with her all the time. The band is composed of drummer Michael Jones, guitarist Paul Moak and bassist Tracy Ferrie.

Plumb's second album Candycoatedwaterdrops is composed of tracks that are basically alternative in genre, but the thing that makes them different is that they contain a bath of electronic music. Arbuckle explains the title of the album, "when we allow ourselves to confine our experience with Christ to a mere religion, and not a relationship, we are sharing and often passing out what amounts to sugar-coated nothing. As a Christian, its important that what is seen evident, is a relationship full of meaning, grace, freedom, love and joy. Not an empty religion" she says.

The album opens with Late Great Planet Earth, a song that will never fail to catch your attention through its unique tune and somewhat "scary" lyrics. The title speaks for itself, it is about the end of the world. There are many songs that are relaxing to listen to, examples are Lie Low and Damaged, which is dedicated to the victims of sexual abuse.

The very talented Tiffany not only has a great voice, she also writes her own songs. Her latest album features collaborations with Matt Bronleewe (Natalie Imbruglia) and producer Glenn Rosenstein (U2, Caedmon's Call). Alanis Morissette, Sarah McLachlan and Sheryl Crow are among Tiffany's influences, and these artists have truly made an impact in her songs. Tiffany has received a lot of recognition since she emerged in 1997.

Some of Plumb's songs from her latest effort have landed in movie soundtracks, these are Stranded (Drive Me Crazy), Here With Me (The Story of Us) and Damaged (Brokedown Palace). Plumb has also won the 2000 Dove Award for "Modern Rock/Alternative Album of the Year."

Despite all these acknowledgements, Plumb is still a bit underrated in the States, but the situation is quite different in Metro Manila. Stranded, Here With Me, Lie Low and Worlds Collide, have cracked the top ten in top Metro Manila stations. Once you get used to most, all of the songs, the album will become very addictive. Plumb's Candycoatedwaterdrops will take you to a unique, nostalgic and out of this world experience. This album is highly recommended, you will surely enjoy the distinct sound this artist has to offer.

*quote taken from plumbinfo.com

CC COM GRAFITTI

HELLO! STAY A WHILE AND LISTEN!

Welcome to yet another installment of CCCOM Fan Art Gallery where we showcase an assortment of Filipino talents!

Our mailbox has been flooded with fan art ever since we printed the first batch of artworks last issue and we'll try our very best to have all your works grace the pages of Culture Crash!

To make it easier for us... please send us artwork no bigger than 8½ x 11 (short bond paper size) colored or black and white. For e-mail entries, it should be no bigger than 6 x 8 inches 72 dpi, in jpeg format... zipped files recommended for faster download time. (Please make sure that your work is 100% virus-free, ok?) ;) please send them to: cccomfighters@email.com

Now, without further ado, we present to you (drumroll) the cccom fan art gallery for the month of January...

Dwight Ebenezer Santos

Strategically placed hair and foreground characters give this artwork the "Perfect Censorship Award."

Chase Gosingtian

Awright! Our very first "actual" fan art! Cool rendition of Mina... down to the color scheme too!

Jay

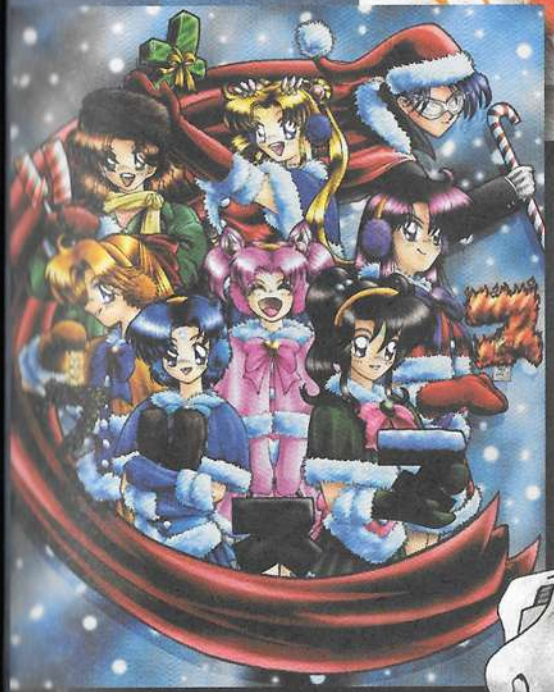
We can't figure out whichTakahashi character she is. Probably Akari-Ryoga's latest love interest.

Sheryl dela Cruz

Hmmm... 'yung artista? (heheh) joke lang. Cute SD!

Joanah Rose Tinio

Hai! Kami 'yan noong Animé Explosion 2000... Mas cute kami sa drawing.

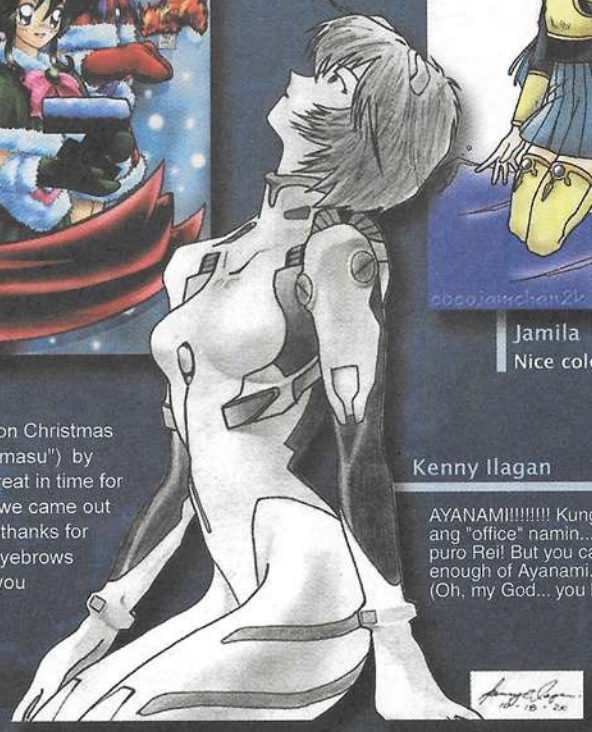


Jamila

Nice colors, Jamila

Force Vector

This most excellent Sailormoon Christmas artwork (note the"Meri Kurisumasu") by "The Force" would've been great in time for the Holidays... Unfortunately we came out too late! Sorry guys! Oh, and thanks for the silicon, Force! Put your eyebrows at ease people, it's not what you think!!!



Kenny Ilagan

AYANAMI!!!!!!!! Kung makita n'yo lang ang "office" namin... 80% ng posters puro Rei! But you can never have enough of Ayanami... Thanks, Kenny. (Oh, my God... you killed Kenny, you...)

Katherine Buñag

(Piccolo voice)
S-such power!!!

Edward

Great work, Edward! I don't know why, but your work has a very Filipino feel. Keep it up dude!

Chester Castaneda

S&M anyone? The bat-babe dominatrix beckons. IQ 40: Me! Me! Give me the whip! Wait, she's a succubus! She sucks the life out of anyone she kisses! This is great!!!

Natsumi Tohkairin

Natsumi's character seems pretty much at home in the clouds doesn't she? Is that you real name by they way?

Riya

This is Riya's original character. Sabi niya pwede daw batuk-batukan basta ma-extra. But c'mon, look at that cute face! We can't do that!

Ina Pretty

Oh my God! Her dress is falling apart! What's happening?!? We don't really know, but we're pretty sure, Ina does. Start explaining this to her parents Ina!

FAN MANGA

BOGCHI & BIONIC ⬇

story & art by: Eumir Peralta
(Quezon City)

I find this comic very funny and entertaining. Funny, because Bionic never grew fat even though she seems to have a monstrous appetite (as in 12-foot Final Fantasy Bosses!!!). Entertaining because gusto ko ring magpagulong-gulong sa damuhan habang kumakain ng popcorn... nakakainggit! But seriously, this shows a lot of potential!!! Hmm... 'Di ba si Laura't si Jedd 'yan?

Hikbi, hikbi. Nakakaiyak ang kwento, reminiscent sa mga tragic love stories ng Manga at Anime. Ala-Clamp pa ang art! Oo nga pala Ermalyn, ano ba ang title ng entry mong ito? Sabi nina Mer at Ilog "ZH-" daw ang title nito. Tama ba? Maganda ang art style mo at mas mapapaganda mo pa ito! Magaling din ang story kaya lang, don't forget the title ha!

⬆ ZH- (?) HINDI NAMIN ALAM 'YUNG TITLE

story & art by: Ermalyn Fuentes
(Sampaloc, Manila)

RAMPANT FIST 2040 ➡

story & art by: Frederick David
(Mariveles, Bataan)

Fred asked me if his panelling was ok... Well, so far, its quite good and the "cinematography" keeps the story moving. You're on the right track, kid! Keep it up and continue drawing... the more you draw, the better you get. Practice, practice practice!!! I suggest you use solid blacks and/or varying line textures for additional emphasis on stuff like hair, shadows, etc... Thanks for sending in your artwork!

J.I.O. ON

HOW WE DRAW 3

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Creating Comics requires a lot of patience and talent. Patience finds its outlet via the production of the pages, talent finds its use through the right medium. In this article, I will discuss the mediums which we have come to prefer over the years through trial and error.

It is imperative for us to use good, clean, high quality white paper so that our outputs would be at its very best (and in scanning the images, our inputs would be at its finest). When using Bristol boards, we use the rough side because it is receptive to blue pencil marks.
Paper Types: 2ply Bristol boards, Copy Paper, Oslo Paper, and Inkjet Paper.

Pencils are also essential to our craft. Blue and Light Blue pencils do not register when we scanning images in grayscale. HB, B and 2B mechanical pencil lead is easy to erase compared to other lead grades. We also use Mongol pencils for doodles and thumbnail sketches (it is also to have a dull pencil once in a while, it makes the rough sketches look really good!).
Pencils: Mongol #1&2, Steadtler Blue & Light Blue Colored Pencils, 0.5 HB, B & 2B Mechanical Pencil Leads.

For Taga-Ilog's fans, he prefers using Staedtler technical pens because, he loves the texture that it creates. I.Q. 40 uses the Nikko spoon nib and the Hunt croquill nib for inking. I use Unipin Felt tip Pens for inking Solstice Butterfly. Taga-ilog is the only one who doesn't use blue pencils for his line art.
Drawing Implements: 0.5, 0.3, & 0.1 Tech Pens, 0.8, 0.5, 0.3 Unipin Drawing Pens, Nikko G-Pen (Graphic Pen), Nikko Turnip (Spoon) Nib, Hunt Steel Nib, Hunt Crowquill Nib, Black Marker.

We use brushes for painting-in the hair of other characters using black ink.
Brushes: Pentel Pen Brush and Chinese Brushes.

Speedball is the best ink for the CCCom artist. When we ink using this brand, our works get a certain "powder Xerox" finish that feels good to the eye. Our artworks also look crisp when digitized on a scanner.
Inks: Speedball India Ink, Staedtler & Rotring Technical Inks

Let us not forget the most expensive tools that Da Bhoss has kindly given us (hehehehe)
Hardware: Pentium II 450mhz 256mb ram, Power Macintosh G3 256mb ram, Pentium III 800mhz 128mb ram, flatbed scanner, CD Writers, Iomega Zip drives and Wacom Graphire Pens.

Software: Adobe Photoshop 5.5 & 6, Metacreations Painter 6, Adobe Pagemaker 6.5, MS Word, Pikachu Volleyball, Red Alert2, Starcraft Brood Wars, King of Fighters Compendium, Caesar III. (as of Dec. 2000) and of course, Counterstrike. (Memer plays Pokemon on GameBoy Emulator.)

AVAILABILITY RATINGS:
(left to right)

1. Pentel Marker: Common
2. Brush Pen: Endangered Species. Replaceable ink cartridge.
3. Chinese Brush: there's two for every Chinese!
4. Nikko Turnip nib: Only in Japan. Handle sold separately.
5. Croquil pen: One nib per Speedball set. Hard to find but cheap.
6. Blue pencil: Scarce. Thanks a lot, IQ 40!
7. Mechanical pencil: Very common.
8. Technical pen: Common but expensive. Refillable ink cartridge.
8. 2B .05 lead: It's everywhere!
9. Uni Pin Felt tip Pens: Common. Just ask the HEAD saleslady, ok?

Alms! Alms! Spare me a piece of bread... spare me your mercy...

Write us at: cc_kom@hotmail.com or at
J.C. Palabay Ent., Inc./ Culture Crash Comics
67 Gen. Ordoñez St. Marikina Heights,
Marikina City 1811

ACHTUNG!!! ACHTUNG!!!
(or attention to non-German-speaking people like myself)

We would like to extend our apologies to Ms. Sherlyn Ricafort aka black seraph. We credited Mr. Ernesto Calvento for sending us our first e-mail back in issue 2 when it was actually her letter! We apologize to both parties for the mix-up!

Also on the topics of:

WEB SITES - We still haven't found the time to get working on our website! Although E.A. Damaso already has a personal site that is more or less finished at www.geocities.com/ichiro_yoko. Also, there are at least three sites that are already up that were created by our readers, they are:

www.geocities.com/pinoycomicsrulez/
www.crash.to/culture
www.geocities.com/xynodras/

UPDATES/NEWS - We keep people updated on releases, appearances etc. thru the Internet via egroups. You may join our egroups at www.egroups.com/group/CultureCrash/. Or you can just e-mail us once and we will add you to the list! Below is a card we sent to those on the list last Christmas.

TRANSLATIONS - Finally, to those who send CC to their friends abroad and our fellow countrymen who are Filipino-challenged, (tsk, tsk!) you may thank our good friend Theresa Dy Lising for she now has a site that provides ENGLISH translations! Check it out at: www.geocities.com/cckomtranslations/

ARE WE MONTHLY? - Monthly is the basic idea, but the heavens are against us! Well not really the heavens, but probably everything else like paper supply, peso drop, forces of nature, mood swings, etc. We keep egroups subscribers updated on the release dates though. Ok how's this? The next issue will be out by the last week of February!

WINNERS - Because we are sooo late, we decided to pick out three winners!!! So congratulations to: Rachelle Cueto, Irene Cabalquinto and Emerson Co Jr.!

I would like to comment on your comic book. I think it's grea I'm an American-born Filipino currently studying college here in the Philippines and my Filipino sucks.
People keep telling me to read Filipino comics, but let's face it, they suck. From the story line to the quality of paper they use, hate it. It doesn't inspire to want to read them. I don't even like watching Filipino movies, because most of them just don't move me to want to spend money on them. Today, I was National Bookstore in Glorietta, and I was looking at magazines and such and that's when I came across your "Culture Crash" comic book. Out of curiousity, I checked it out. I have to say, I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED. I was even more excited that it wa written in Filipino instead of English.

I finally found a Filipino comic book that caught my attention bought it, read it, and enjoyed it. To my amazement, I found ou that there were 2 other issues ahead of the one I bought. Tomorrow, I'm gonna try to find the first 2 issues. Heck, I'm gonna buy an extra set for collector's sake, because if these comic books start becoming big, which I can imagine they will, these will be collector's items.

Keep up the good job. If you'll write/draw/produce them, I WILL read them. And when my Filipino improves, I can honestl tell people that it's because of your "Culture Crash" comic book.

Charles
via the Internet

Charles goes on at considerable length describing his comic idea of a Filipino M.A.F.I.A. title, but we have little space, so we had to edit that out, sorry.

While we can't say we totally agree with all of his opinions, Charles is somewhat of a textbook example of wh we generally use Filipino. To inspire people about our culture and our language is a big, big dream. Especially when we are wearing foreign clothing as a comic book.

Perhaps if we ever get around to properly exporting our title, Half-Filipino kids will get interested with Filipino again because of CC! Heck, we might even get a foreign-based following! One can always dream right?

Hello, Culture Crash Staff!

Just wanna say: Hey! Great Work! I got your 3rd issue and I' kind of sad right now 'coz I didn't get the 1st copy and 2nd issue But hey, can I make a request? Could you please sell me copie here in Cagayan do Oro (at National Bookstore or course! Saan pa ba?) After you reprint them? Lalong-lalo na yung pinaka-una at ikalawang issue. I'm really, really, REALLY a big anime fanat Kaya as soon as I heard na may bagong comics na Culture Crash (na narinig ko sa "EXTRA! EXTRA!") sabik na sabik na akong bumili nito. Kaya nga lang, I have to buy in Manila kasi walang available dito.

I must say, I'm really impressed with you guys. Ang galing-galing n'yo talaga! Akala mo galing Japan, Pinoy pala ang may gawa! I really like "One Day, Isang Diwa" and "Cat's Trail". Jed from O.D.I.D. is really something. I mean, he's so... cute! But something really confuses me: is Jun the main character or Jedd? Do you get me? I mean, Jedd gets some kind of superpower as I think and Jun only gets Diwa? Cat's

Trail is hilarious (well, that's what I think anyway) I mean, I couldn't stop laughing at their expressions.

As I read one letter you published on the 3rd issue, I'm wondering whether or not you really could compile all the chapters/episodes, kind of like a manga volume? That would be really cool! And hey, don't forget us here at Cagayan de Oro!

Well , I guess that's all for now. Keep up the GREAT work! God bless and MORE POWER to all of you!

Your greatest fan,
Di Ferrer
Cagayan de Oro

Is Jun or Jedd the lead in O.D.I.D.? Can't really spoil anything Di, best I can say is I'm going to try to experiment with the storyline in the long run. I want to do something I've never seen in any storyline. A lot of us are kinda rooting for Leo though, since he bribes us regularly.

Availability in the provinces is becoming an apparent problem for us. Fortunately, some have decided to distribute CC to areas we cannot reach. Also, We had an e-mail, I think from Bacolod. Unfortunately, hotmail, auto-deleted some 700-800 messages and we no longer have a copy of it, along with some that was going to be printed. Anyway, the sender told us of how he and his brother discovered copies of CC hidden at a local shop! They bought their copies immediately and told us that since the manager was a friend, they would see to it that it that CC finds a good shelf space.

In connection, we were also hidden at a certain bookstore in Katipunan and CC was not selling well at all. It had been there for a week. Know what I did? I moved all 30 copies to a better place and three days later, all I could find were 2 opened copies. Today, that branch counts CC as one of their best-selling regular publication.

I don't know, maybe we should start a "Help Move the CC COM Movement". Let's get those hidden CC copies out there!!! ^_^;

As for graphic novels, it really is too early to say Di, let's keep our fingers crossed! ^_^

Hi! It's me Rance(as if you really know me, hahaha!)

Well, I think 85 pesos is reasonable. The quality of your work really is very impressive. Full color, high quality paper for both cover and inside stuff, the articles, the fun and enjoyment, and a comic collection/memorabilia. Huh! That's too much for just 85 pesos! Where else in the world can you get stuff like that just for 85 pesos?

Ok, 'til next time, have a good day and good luck!

Rance
via the Internet

P.S.

I think it's so wrong some people think culture crash is such nonsense and no one reads it. MAN, IT'S SO WRONG!

85 bucks? Why not guys? I mean it's still affordable for me even though I'm just a student. Come to think of it, with the quality we are getting, lumalabas na talo kayo (mwa-ha-ha-ha!!!) Just kidding! Hindi naman magkakaroon ng third impact kung gagawin n'yo iyon so, go ahead and good luck!!!!

Eiji Shinjo
via the Internet

85 Php is not that expensive! I'll gladly pay 100 pesos for the next issue!!

Elijah Alcantara
via the Internet

Hi CC Com staff!

48 pages for comics...40 dati, right? Dagdagan pa! sana :) Kung magbabayad ako ng 85, mas sulit sa akin kung feeling ko mas substantial yung development sa kwento.

Actuallly I'm more willing to pay a higher price, kahit mga P100-150, kung every two or three months lang.

Bago lang ako sa pagkokolekta ng comics...the only other ones that I have are Arnold Arre's Mythology Class, Beerkada, and Pugad Baboy. Nu'ng maliit ako..funny komiks :) Siguro binibili ko kasi pinoy gumagawa but I guess you're really brave pioneers in this concept... kaya suportahan! :) maganda yan para ma-revive 'din naman yung comics industry natin. Marami namang talented sa pinas, kaya lang napupunta sa foreign na comics o animation. Sayang walang local suppliers ng materials n'yo, nakatulong sana. People really don't expect the economy to improve anytime soon. Hopefully people will still want to read manga kasi gusto nilang sumaya. :)

Pon
via the Internet

Due to insistent public demand, Culture Crash issue 5 will now be in B/W and 100 pesos!!! This is great! We will finally be making money!!!

You're bringing the price up!?!! It's ok if you need to, but believe me, you have lots of readers.

Maybe after this you can bring the price down to maybe... say... 60 pesos??

But being fans, we usually understand.

Tattika

60 pesos? OK, OK, let's meet halfway, back to 85 pesos people!!!

Hi! I'm inbox6969.

I'm one of the fans of Culture Crash. I would like to congratulate you on a job well done on putting up this comics/magazine that features original Filipino art (in Japanese style drawing).

Anyway, I would like to give some suggestions for the magazine and for the website. People would probably like to see centerfolds of the characters of the Culture Crash storylines and of the best fanart that are sent to u.

Finally, do you know impromangas?? Impromangas are mangas that are created or started by a certain individual but are soon passed to another individual to continue it, then to another, and another, until the artist that started the manga decides to finish it. Impromangas can be put into your website to add more spice and enable some amateur manga artists to feature their talent.

Good work guys!

Inbox6969
via the Internet

We already did that centerfold thing this issue so I hope a lot of you who had been requesting it are happy!

As for the impromanga idea, we at the CC office thought it was a great idea. But since we still don't really know when and how we can execute this at the moment, we decided to print your letter so you can claim credit for the idea later in case we forget. Hmm... how about letting us know a more proper name my friend?

Now that we have committed ourselves to delivering the next issue by the last week of February, the question now is will we make it?!? As for articles, we've been contemplating songs and lyrics and recent e-mails seem to have you thinking the same thing so we'll look into that next ish. Of course, all the stories have now been extended! We still have a few things up our sleeves so watch out people!

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